

Registration number: 07697027

# West Hill School

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

## West Hill School

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## West Hill School

### Reference and administrative details

<b>Members</b>	Dr M Davies (appointed 11 June 2019) Mr I Berry (appointed 13 October 2020) Mr P Holden (appointed 14 December 2018) Mrs J Littlewood (appointed 10 May 2023) Mr I Sharkett (appointed 10 May 2023)
<b>Governors and Trustees (Directors)</b>	Dr M Davies (appointed Chair 11 June 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 1 September 2023) Mr D Tilbrook (appointed 22 February 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 23 March 2021, appointed Chair 1 September 2023) Mr M Stimpson (appointed 19 November 2019) Mrs J Davidson (appointed 22 January 2020) (resigned 9 November 2022) Mr A Owens (appointed 7 July 2020) (resigned 31 August 2023) Mrs S Butler (appointed 12 October 2021) (resigned 31 August 2023) Mrs J Mirtorabi (appointed 30 November 2021) Ms S Smith (appointed 1 February 2022) Mrs G Parkes (appointed 1 July 2022) Mrs S Din (appointed 9 November 2022) Mr S Barton (appointed 6 July 2023) Mrs K Davis (appointed 27 September 2023)
<b>Head Teacher</b>	Ms C Cronin
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Mr A Owens, Headteacher (appointed 1 May 2020 , retired 31 August 2023) Ms C Cronin, Headteacher (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs G Wood, Deputy Head (retired 31 August 2023) Mr P Butterworth, Deputy Head (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs J Whiting, Deputy Head (appointed 1 September 2023) Mr M O'Dowd, Assistant Head Miss J Staples, Assistant Head Mrs L Whiting, Assistant Head (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs K Anderton, Assistant Head (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs A Barton, Assistant Head (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs L Harrison, Business Manager
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	Stamford Street Stalybridge Cheshire SK15 1LX

**West Hill School**

**Reference and administrative details (continued)**

**Company Registration Number** 07697027

**Auditors** Beaver and Struthers  
Chartered Accountants  
Suite 9B, The Beehive  
Lions Drive  
Shadsworth Business Park  
Blackburn  
Lancashire  
BB1 2QS

**Bankers** Lloyds Bank  
16 Market Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1JG

**Solicitors** Eversheds Sutherland International LLP  
Eversheds House  
70 Great Bridgewater Street  
Manchester  
M1 5ES

## **West Hill School**

### **Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Trustees Report**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operated an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in Tameside. It has a pupil capacity of 825 and had a roll of 847 in the school census on 5th October 2023.

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

##### ***Constitution***

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary trustee documents of the academy trust. The trustees of West Hill School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operated as West Hill School.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 and 2.

##### ***Members' liability***

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

##### ***Trustees' indemnities***

Under The Companies Act 2006 s236 the directors confirm there are no third party indemnity provisions in operation.

##### ***Principal Activities***

The trust principal activities are to provide education to 11-16 year olds, without prejudice, carrying on, managing and developing a broad and balanced curriculum.

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

The trust ensures that it maintains appropriate numbers of trustees on the trustee body. At such times as it is required to appoint new trustees the following recruitment process operates.

If the requirement is for a parent trustee, letters are circulated to all parents of pupils currently on roll. Nominations are returned to the school by the given closing date. Should more nominations be received than places available an election will be organised, voting is by secret ballot. Closing date and time is published and all votes are counted and the results announced at a public meeting.

Where an academy trustee is to be appointed a skills audit is conducted to establish where there is a skills gap.

The balance of trustees are appointed by the members of the trust.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

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

All trustees receive a welcome pack, containing pertinent information relating to the trust, including financial information. Training is given with regards to safeguarding and child protection. A range of other courses are made available to all members and trustees subscribe to those where appropriate.

#### *Organisational structure*

The Academy's organisational structure comprises of three tiers: members, trustees and senior leadership team. The objective of this structure is to delegate responsibility thereby encouraging participation from all levels in decision making.

The board of members provide governance for the academy through a means of delegation to the trustees. The primary responsibilities of the trustees are to discuss and approve various operating policies, approving the school improvement plan and budget and making decisions about major items that affect the academy, for example future strategic and operational directions and staffing. The trustees have an approved structure, terms of reference and standing orders.

The senior leadership team comprises of nine members: headteacher, two deputy head teachers, five assistant head teachers and the business manager. This team ensure that policy as directed by the trustee body is implemented in the academy and carried out. Regular reports are made by the team back to the trustee body. The headteacher is the accounting officer.

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

The arrangements for setting pay for the senior leadership team is split between the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and the NJC scale. The Headteacher, Deputies and Assistant heads are all teachers and their pay is set in accordance with the leadership pay range applicable to the school (using the groups and pay ranges document). The business manager's salary is paid on the leadership pay spine.

#### **Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	2

#### **Percentage of time spent on facility time**

Percentage of time

1%-50%

**Number of employees**

2

#### **Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time**

Provide the total cost of facility time

Provide the total pay bill

**2023**

£4,513.00

£4,384,000.00

#### **Paid trade union activities**

**2023**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: ( total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours ) x 100

2

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Objectives and activities

##### *Objects and aims*

The principle objective of the academy is to promote the advancement of education for all students and staff. Through the delivery of a well-developed, broad and balanced curriculum model and sound care, guidance and support for all at the academy we are able to sustain an environment that secures quality of education in a happy, safe environment.

The main aims of the Academy are:

- To continue to develop strategies that support and provide for continued education improvements
- To ensure best value is achieved in all areas of expenditure
- To ensure that we continue to comply with legislative and statutory requirements for all areas of the academy

These aims are underpinned by:

- Upholding the academy's reputation in the community by continuing to achieve excellent exam results
- Encouraging students to reach the highest standards in everything they do
- Developing students personal responsibility, respect for others and the environment
- Offering a wide range of learning opportunities beyond the classroom accessible to all
- Connections with outside agencies to ensure that a fully encompassing support network is in place for the student and staff
- Inspiring pupils and staff to foster positive attitudes towards every aspect of school life and the wider community encouraging them to mature and fulfil their own ambitions.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

Building on from the previous academic year, the focus for the academy for the year ending August 2023 remained primarily around three key areas, with 3 foci:

#### Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- o Match planned and sequenced curriculum maps to the available on line resources so that home learning is easier to access
- o Increase the use of low stakes assessments, revision tools and consolidation resources so that pupils increase in confidence
- o Widen the use of teaching strategies in use across the school through CPD and coaching so that pupil engagement in lessons improves
- o Ensure incisive feedback is in place and all pupils given the opportunity to respond

#### Leadership and Management:

- o Continue to develop and embed relations with parents and other stakeholders following the Leading Parent Partnership Award
- o Continue to support all staff on the elements of the plan for delivery
- o Providing further opportunities for teachers to learn from the good practice that exists within the school and in good and outstanding local schools, in order to increase the proportion of outstanding teaching

#### Personal development, behaviour and safety:

- o Increased tracking of low-disruption hot spot areas
- o Increase contact with parents of persistent absentees
- o Embed IAG activities across the curriculum

#### *Public benefit*

To ensure that purposes of public benefit are met through the aims and objectives of the academy the trustees have referred to the general guidance on public benefit as detailed by the Charity Commission. By clearly identifying the activities of the academy and how these service the students and public the trustees are satisfied that they are able to demonstrate how they are supportive of public benefit.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Academic Performance

Performance at KS4 across a wide range of subjects in 2023 led to a Progress 8 score of -0.31 which is 'below average'. Year on year comparisons in data are not valid due to changes in methodologies for awarding grades and calculating measures. Progress 8 in 2022 was -0.1 which was considered to be 'average' i.e. pupils at this school made similar progress to their peers nationally.

In 2023, the attainment 8 score was 43.9 which is above local and national averages. The proportion of students achieving passes at grade 5 and above in English and Mathematics was 39%, which is 1% below the national average for all pupils. The proportion of pupils achieving passes at grade 4 and above (previously grade C) in English and Mathematics was 59%, a decrease on 2022's results and a focus area for school improvement.

The progress 8 of disadvantaged students was -0.85. As is the case in the national data, there is still a gap between the progress made by PP and non-PP students. This continues to be a priority for school improvement.

- Particularly high performing subjects in terms of progress in 2023 were Food, Electronics, Geography and PE and Business Studies.
- Subjects with the most rapid need for improvement based on 2023 results were Engineering, Design and Technology and Music. The school no longer offers Engineering as a distinct course.

\*Important to note: All attainment and progress data is taken from the School and College performance data website. This data was published on 19/10/2023 and does not include the results of remarks. The attainment figures will increase in the validated data publication which follows later in the academic year.

#### Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

The school holds the 'Quality in Careers Standard', which was reassessed in December 2021 and is due for a full review in 2024. Following this, the school were asked to provide a best practice case-study for the national awarding body. All our pupils receive careers advice and support all the way through from Y7 to Y11, the Gatsby benchmarks are close to being met in full. Year 10 take part in a two-week work experience placement and two college taster days. We also host events with speakers invited from sectors of industry and education. This programme leads to very pleasing destinations data including lower than average NEET's compared to local and national data.

#### School Improvement Plan

The leadership team worked with a National Leader of Education who conducted curriculum reviews of all subject areas. He has reviewed the School Improvement Plan and Self-evaluation processes and was satisfied with both the plan and the progress being made in achieving the ambitious objectives. The school improvement plan for 2021-2023 will be closed following its reporting to trustees on 29th November. The Senior Leadership Team will publish a new one spanning 2023-2025.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Strategic Report

##### Achievements and performance

###### *Key performance indicators*

Salary costs for the financial year were 81% of the delegated revenue income from the DfE compared to 83% 2022.

Staff training – An average of £138.00 was spent on staff training (course cost provision) (based on all FTE staff) over the financial year compared to £112.00 FTE in 2021/22. The costs of training have remained stable as, in the main the system of delivery by providers has remained unchanged following the pandemic. All staff continue to have unlimited access to training courses provided by the National College relevant to their work / subject area. In addition to this the academy continues to develop the use of Iris Connect. This allows teachers and other staff to share and show good practice across the academy to support improvements to teaching and learning.

Absence – Costs of externally sourced teaching supply staff in 2022/23 was £81K compared to £25K in 2021/22. This was an increase of 218%. This increase was directly attributable to maternity leaves throughout the year.

Utilities – Costs of electricity increased by 81% to £173K in 2021/22 from £95K in 2021/22 and increase in gas costs also by 92% to £51K in 2021/22 from £26K in 2021/22. In both cases the unprecedented increases in utilities did put a financial strain on the academy finances. However, this was offset slightly following the introduction of the business rebate scheme which ran from October to March. This saved the academy a further 50% on the costs of utilities during this period.

###### *Going concern*

After making reasonable enquiries, the trustee body has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of Accounting Policies.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Promoting the success of the company*

Our school prides itself on its opportunity-based curriculum. Our curriculum is specifically tailored to empower our young men, giving them the knowledge, skills, confidence and set of behaviours to become fully engaged citizens within the community.

West Hill is a school which recognises that what we offer outside of the classroom is as important as what takes place within it. It is a school in which boys are exposed to, and encouraged to partake in, a wealth of co-curricular activities to not only broaden the mind, but support and protect it.

Our school prides itself in having the highest reputation in our community, exemplified at all times, by the conduct of the West Hill Boy.

West Hill is a school where we promote the physical and emotional well-being of its staff by creating a working environment in which they feel valued, supported, and are encouraged to thrive.

West Hill is ambitious in its vision for future developments and is committed to working to achieve this. Projects that deliver improvements to the educational experiences of our pupils are front and centre of our decision making. Striving to be better tomorrow than we are today, we use a range of resources to secure the best way of achieving our goals. Our vision is promoted as:

- Every boy will be an independent, committed and engaged learner
- Every boy will embody the characteristics of the West Hill Boy and uphold our values of Respect, Responsibility and a readiness for learning
- Every boy will participate in a range of extra-curricular activities
- Every barrier to accessing the curriculum will be removed for all boys
- Every boy who leaves West Hill will make an informed and ambitious transition to the next stage of his learning
- Every member of staff will engage in professional development opportunities to be the best practitioner they can
- Every stakeholder will feel valued and connected to our community
- Every stakeholder will benefit from a continual focus on improving facilities for all

By having an inclusive and supportive culture our staff are supported both professionally and personally. Staff turnover at the school is low which allows for the continuity of a high level of experienced professional input.

West Hill School fosters a collaborative approach with all our pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders. The work done to improve parental engagement (gained LPPA in September 2021) continues to be developed and deliver excellent engagement with all groups of parents, leading to positive engagement with school. The community culture amongst staff allows for positive discussions at all levels from new classroom initiatives to supporting pupils and others through to the physical aspects of the buildings.

We have positive relationships with the businesses we work with. Business are keen to work with us, particularly around careers, giving time to take part in interview practice and work experience placements.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Financial review

The main income source to the academy is DfE funding. This is a prescribed formula, primarily based on pupil numbers. Pupil numbers at West Hill School remain stable and we continue to be oversubscribed.

During the year 2022/23 new challenges have been evident. This has put exceptional pressure on the school to not only to construct and maintain a balanced budget but to balance those competing demands. There was a significant, unfunded, pay award for support staff, the rising costs of utilities and also for our academy a series of maternity leaves. Through careful monitoring and planning we have still been able to deliver on projects that support the continued improvements for teaching and learning and also the fabric of the buildings.

We have been fortunate that we have been successful in gaining funding to support to major projects; a Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) bid in May 2022 of £473K to improve the fire security across the site and in March of 2023 we were awarded £222K under the Connect the Classroom grant which has enabled us to achieve WiFi6 connectivity. The scope of this work included assessment and improvement to the following:

- Current wireless provision
- Current edge switches
- Current core switches
- Connectivity between switches
- Connectivity to all network devices (ie structured cabling).

All work was completed in the summer term, ahead of the completion date of February 2024.

There remains challenges moving forward on the budget for 2023/24 and beyond. Concerns remain as all costs continue to rise. The immediate and primary concern is around utility costs. These remain in uncharted territory and, with the expectation of the removal of the Business Energy Rebate over the winter months for 2023, the costs set to be incurred will be higher again than that of the previous year. We have taken steps to ensure that all heating is running at optimum levels and have now installed LED lighting across the school estate. There remains unrest across the public sector for pay awards to both teaching and support staff. Whilst the teachers' pay award has been funded in part any support staff pay award remains to met from the school budget. This is outing increased pressure on finances year on year.

Efficiency savings remain at the forefront of every budget set however the challenges now being faced by us and schools nationally are exceeding the funding allocated.

The trust held balances (excluding pension liability) as at 31 August 2023 of £914,000. This comprised of £329,000 of restricted funds and £585,000 unrestricted funds. The trusts non-teaching staff are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The current position of scheme at 31 August 2023 showed a net asset of £1,297,000, the asset has not been recognised in the financial statements.

No risk Investment opportunities are to be investigated with the trust's bankers, Lloyds.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Reserves policy*

Accurate and detailed financial planning underpins the ongoing success of any Academy Trust, and the effective management of reserves is critical to that process.

The purpose of this policy is;

(a) to offer guidance as to the nature and level of reserves to be maintained, and on how those reserves should be utilised;

(b) to confirm how the academy will manage its reserves.

The policy of the Academy is to carry forward a prudent level of revenue reserves designed to meet its short-term cash flow needs, whilst also managing the longer-term cyclical needs of planning, and any capital investment that may be required. The policy is subject to the constraint that the level of reserves does not exceed the level permitted by the ESFA within the Academies Financial Handbook; currently there are no limits imposed by the ESFA.

1. Maintaining an appropriate level of financial reserves is considered essential in protecting the school from financial risk generated by, for example;

- income reduction due to Government funding changes
- unexpected falls in student numbers
- cash flow issues due to delays in receipt of funding
- emergencies

2. In general it is considered prudent to maintain a level of useable reserves sufficient to cover unexpected and unplanned events so that the school's primary objective is preserved. At the same time, the school wishes to ensure that it uses its funding to benefit the students in its care which implies an imperative to consider actively the use of reserves to enhance educational provision.

3. Trustees will monitor levels of reserves in financial reports provided by the Business Manager and in the annual financial statement prepared by the Auditor. Trustees will look to ensure that a prudent level of reserves is maintained, bearing in mind the recurrent spending needs to ensure high quality provision. In deciding the level of reserves Trustees will take into account the following:

- one month salary bill .
- the school's annual budget
- the need for any large project spend such as facilities development or building condition needs
- any uncertainty, turbulence or expected reduction in funding arrangements, including the level of transitional protection within the school funding and its expiry date
- anticipated funding over the next three years.

The reserves figures for the next financial cycle is the equivalent of one months GAG deposit, £408,851.00

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

4. The reserve figure in this policy statement will be reviewed annually with the principles of the policy statement reviewed on a biennial review.

The results from the FRS17 valuation report show the trust's pension liability as at 31.08.2023 had increased from £691,000.00 surplus in 2021/22 to £1,297,000.00 surplus in 2022/23. The employer contribution rates set by the Local Government Pension Scheme are reviewed every three years. The last review was in 2020 when rates increased from 16.80% to 17.0%. Employer rates remain at 17.00% and currently forecast to remain at this level until 31.03.2026.

The academy held the following fund balances at the 31.08.2023 £914,000 comprising of £329,000 of restricted funds and £585,000 of unrestricted funds. Planned expenditure for this falls in line with the criteria attached to each type of reserve balance.

Due consideration is paid to the DfE's limits on balances. It is the trust's policy to review these on a regular basis to ensure that the levels of balances continue to meet the needs of the trust and the DfE.

#### *Investment policy*

The trust currently does not have a specific investment policy as previously surplus funds were not available. However, moving forward the basis of such a policy will ensure that all investments are entered into at no risk to the trust, by securing principal amounts placed, maximising returns and have flexible access to funds held.

Currently all funds held by the trust are in a deposit account.

#### *Principal risks and uncertainties*

The majority of the trust's funding is obtained from the DfE through recurrent grants. A new funding formula came into effect in September 2020, and whilst the majority of funding is now rolled into the main funding stream, there remains a reduction in income in real terms.

Additional risks to the academy are identified as strategic and reputational, operational, compliance and curriculum. The impact and probability of each type of risk is considered with an action plan identified for the management of the risk through the use of a risk register. The purpose of the register is to ensure that the academy's systems of internal controls are sufficient to manage the risks identified. This register has been considered by the trustee body and risks are reviewed by the Internal Audit Committee. This is a dedicated sub committee of the main board who's specific function is to provide internal scrutiny to the evaluate the risk register and whether it is fit for purpose by evaluating that risks have been properly evaluated and that an appropriate level of assurance is given to the rest of the trustee board.

As previously mentioned, uncertainties around the rising costs of gas and electricity for the coming financial year and beyond are concerning the impact they will have on the finances of the school. The budget forecast for the new financial year for these costs is estimated to rise by approximately 300% (same as 2022/23). To date there are no plans to release additional funding by the Government to support us during the winter months as was the case in 22/23, so if anything the costs will be higher again that was realised in 22/23.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Some uncertainties remain over the adequacy and accuracy of funding from the DfE. Rising costs not matched by increased funding makes for exceptionally difficult budget setting. There are further uncertainties surrounding the levels of future funding and how schools will be funded in the future remains a concern shared by colleagues nationally. Budget setting in the future will become increasingly challenging with competing demands against stagnating income levels. Using the metric tools available to use we will be able to assess and challenge our financial performance to analyse how we may be able to meet our school priorities within the income available to us.

The academy produces and distributes to trustees the monthly management accounts. The trustees are able to clearly monitor the financial position and ensure that it is sufficiently liquid to meet financial obligations as they arise.

#### **Fundraising**

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

#### **Plans for future periods**

Whilst the future holds many challenges our vision is at the centre of our future plans and is the basis for informing our development.

We remain ambitious in our approach to developing our curriculum and have robust estate planning in place. We are able to and take opportunities to bid for grants to improve the fabric of the school buildings. During 2021/22 we were successful in securing a capital grant of £473K to make improvements to site wide fire safety. Alongside this we have been successful in 2023 of a grant of £221K for a DfE project 'Connect the Classroom'. This has now provided a more secure future proofing of our network systems. The use of a specific grant from the DfE for energy efficiencies has enabled us to instal LED lighting across the estate where non was in place. This will ensure that we are able to maximise savings against the costs of utilities

We continuing to develop our parental engagement through a variety of means, including parent voice. Future developments are to widen the net of this and encourage more on-site activities for ways for our parents and other stakeholders to interact with us in a positive and sustained way.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar 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.

Trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Governing Body on 8.12.23, and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Tilbrook (appointed 22 February 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 23 March 2021, appointed Chair 1 September 2023)  
Governor and trustee

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement

#### Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between West Hill School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body 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 Governing Body has formally met 7 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr M Davies (appointed 11 June 2019)	7	7
Mr D Tilbrook (appointed 22 February 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 23 March 2021, appointed Chair 1 September 2023)	7	7
Mr M Stimpson (appointed 19 November 2019)	6	7
Mrs S Butler (appointed 12 October 2021) (resigned 31 August 2023)	6	7
Mr A Owens (appointed 7 July 2020) (resigned 31 August 2023)	7	7
Ms S Smith (appointed 1 February 2022)	5	7
Mrs J Mirtorabi (appointed 30 November 2021)	7	7
Mrs G Parkes (appointed 1 July 2022)	6	7
Mrs S Din (appointed 9 November 2022)	4	4

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

#### Governance reviews

Following the Ofsted inspection in November 2021 the school was categorised as Good.

#### Key Changes to the Board

During the last year there have been three resignations from the board, Mr Owens, Mrs Davidson and Ms Butler. These vacancies have been filled.

The work of the trustee board, through strategic direction, provides for an ambitious vision and ethos for the academy. The use of intelligent, meaningful data allows the board to understand the school context and to hold leaders to account.

The trustees carried out a review of its performance in during 2022/23. Information collated from the individual audits was gathered by the vice chair and shared with the board. The purpose of this audit was to determine the board's effectiveness and identify areas of improvement, training and recruitment.

Under the leadership of the Chair, Dr Davies, the board has continued to develop and strengthen its vision for the academy by embedding a robust trustee structure and focussed monitoring of all practices including finance.

Link trustees work closely with various members of staff throughout the year to gain improved understanding of the work carried out and to act as critical friend in questioning to deepen that understanding.

Various detailed reports are provided to trustees for information, review and challenge to be raised. An analysis of meetings and work undertaken over the year is self-evaluated by the trustees with a business plan drawn up for the following year, this includes a timeline for various anniversary dates for particular areas of work, review and training. All trustees have access to a governor portal which houses all information in a secure setting.

Sub committees are no longer part of the board structure, of which Finance and Resources was one. Business normally conducted under the sub committees is now dealt with at full trustee meetings, which have calendared agendas for particular foci throughout the year. This provides a platform for suitable and robust challenge by all trustees and full transparency of information presented for appropriate decision making. Some specific sub committees continue to exist. These are to undertake specific, delegated duties. These are Internal Audit which carries out the internal scrutiny of the academy, annual meeting of the pay committee and head teachers' performance review.

Board meetings with a finance focus have been held three times across the year. Monthly management accounts are submitted to the GovernorHub Portal, this ensures that all trustees have the opportunity to review and question aspects of the financial position of the school.

#### Conflicts of Interest

The school recognises that due diligence must be exercised when ensuring that any potential conflict of interest can be easily recognised and managed. The school maintains a register of Business Interests. This is completed by all trustees, senior members of staff and all budget holders. Further and at the start off each trustee meeting attendees are asked to declare any business interests. Orders placed by budget holders or senior staff are checked against the declaration register for any conflict. Where an order may need to be placed with a company with whom an interest is declared research will be carried out to verify and compare the costs and specification of that service/provision of goods. Gifts and hospitality from any company from business transactions are discouraged and where unsolicited gifts may be received these are recorded and either returned or used for the benefit of the school.

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr M Davies (appointed 11 June 2019)	3	3
Mr D Tilbrook (appointed 22 February 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 23 March 2021, appointed Chair 1 September 2023)	3	3
Mr M Stimpson (appointed 19 November 2019)	2	3
Mr A Owens (appointed 7 July 2020)	3	3
Mrs S Butler (appointed 12 October 2021)	3	3
Mrs J Mirtorabi (appointed 30 November 2021)	3	3
Mrs G Parkes (appointed 1 July 2022)	2	3
Ms S Smith (appointed 1 February 2022)	3	3
Mrs S Din	2	2

Focus this year has been varied between keeping tight control on spiralling costs associated with energy and ensuring that students are well equipped in the classroom and well prepared for the summer examinations. The use of the system SISRA and the level of data scrutiny this provides allows for deeper probing and questioning of performance and how this will, ultimately, translate into results for pupils. With the use of Recovery Premium we have been able to identify areas of need and provide investment to further develop pupils curriculum experience. The addition of the resource centre which incorporates a library in July 22 has seen increased numbers of pupils beginning to read for pleasure. A reading programme has been introduced, this focusses on our 'reluctant readers' to help improve their reading stamina, confidence and comprehension. Whilst still in its first year we have seen marked improvement in the reading ages of the targeted cohort. A focus on this will remain and be quality assured over time for impact measures across the curriculum. The library as a resource base is popular with students across the school as a place to engage in learning out of classroom.

The board recognises that funding challenges remain. The continuing decline of funding (in real terms) and continuing increases in staffing and other operational costs present challenges across all sectors of the organisation. Using benchmarking and other metrics to measure our own efficiency are used and these help to inform discussions at meetings and decision making.

The Internal Audit committee also met during the year. The focus for the scrutiny this year was to undertake Pen Testing and an assessment of health and safety.

The Internal Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is to be responsible for review and monitoring of the performance and regularity of the academy's finances. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Tilbrook (appointed 22 February 2019, appointed Deputy Chair 23 March 2021, appointed Chair 1 September 2023)	3	3
Mr M Stimpson (appointed 19 November 2019)	3	3
Mr A Owens (appointed 7 July 2020) (resigned 31 August 2023)	3	3
Ms S Smith (appointed 1 February 2022)	3	3

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

#### **Review of Value for Money**

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

The accounting officer considered 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 or by using a framework where appropriate.

The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money for the year by:

#### ***Delivery of education***

Performance at KS4 across a wide range of subjects in 2023 led to a Progress 8 score of -0.31 which is 'below average'. Year on year comparisons in data are not valid due to changes in methodologies for awarding grades and calculating measures. Progress 8 in 2022 was -0.1 which was considered to be 'average' i.e. pupils at this school made similar progress to their peers nationally.

In 2023, the attainment 8 score was 43.9 which is above local and national averages. The proportion of students achieving passes at grade 5 and above in English and Mathematics was 39%, which is 1% below the national average for all pupils. The proportion of pupils achieving passes at grade 4 and above (previously grade C) in English and Mathematics was 59%, a decrease on 2022's results and a focus area for school improvement.

The progress 8 of disadvantaged students was -0.85. As is the case in the national data, there is still a gap between the progress made by PP and non-PP students. This continues to be a priority for school improvement.

- Particularly high performing subjects in terms of progress in 2023 were Food, Electronics, Geography and PE and Business Studies.
- Subjects with the most rapid need for improvement based on 2023 results were Engineering, Design and Technology and Music. The school no longer offers Engineering as a distinct course.

\*Important to note: All attainment and progress data is taken from the School and College performance data website. This data was published on 19/10/2023 and does not include the results of remarks. The attainment figures will increase in the validated data publication which follows later in the academic year.

Following on from the success of the previous year's year 7 transition programme this was again delivered this summer. The programme was well attended and helped to prepare our new starters for the next stage of their school life.

This allowed our new year 7 pupils to have positive interactions with each other and teachers whilst being introduced to the school site and gain familiarization with the school site. Feedback from our parents was extremely positive in this regard.

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

#### *Financial Governance and oversight*

Involvement of the trustees, through regular meetings, robust reporting on financial transactions enables all trustees to probe deeper into the financial affairs of the academy, ask pertinent questions and, where they feel appropriate, challenge the responses given. Through this level of interaction, the trustees are able to understand how we arrive at the decisions that are made and how the strategic financial planning is managed.

Opportunities for application to any capital investment bids are made and we have been successful, in May 2022 of an award for a capital bid for £419K for the replacement fire doors and associated fire compartmentation improvements. Work commenced on this in October 2022. We had a further capital grant from the DfE specifically for energy efficiency improvements, this was used to install LED lighting across the rest of the estate where non was installed. The cost savings from this initiative will be seen on savings on electrical energy costs.

#### *Improved purchasing*

Contracts and services are regularly reviewed and renegotiated when appropriate to ensure value for money.

Where quotations are required for expensive items, we ensure that the academy processes for such items is followed accurately ensuring that we have obtained a sufficient number of quotes and that these are based on the same requirements. References are also sometimes obtained from other end users for information on the performance of a supplier before any final decisions are made.

The Academy always assesses the cost benefits of various options before making a decision to ensure that the right option for the longer term.

#### *Income generation*

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through its own facilities and accessing grants that maybe be available to it.

#### *Reviewing controls and managing risks*

Trustees receive regular and informative information about the finances of the academy and are able to make more informed decisions about how best to employ cash resources accumulated through robust financial planning.

The trustees of the academy would not enter into any interest making deposit facility where the principal sum could be at risk.

#### **The purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the 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 at West Hill School for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The trustee body has reviewed the key risks of which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been place for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### ***The Risk Control Framework***

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- Regular reviews by the board of trustees of the reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks.

The academy recognises the recommendation that the internal audit scrutiny is not undertaken by the same company as that which conducts the annual audit and it will make the necessary appointment of an internal audit provision.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit to assess the potential risk of cyber security attacks and also an overview of health and safety management. These services were procured from Cyber Security Specialist for the penetration testing and Stockport MBC for Health & Safety with whom a service agreement is in place for health and safety advice.

Reports from both audits were received which detailed potential vulnerabilities which have been actioned accordingly.

The Cyber Security audit revealed only a medium level of exposure to one server. This was not a forward facing server and was scheduled for retirement in August 2023. No other gaps in security were identified. The health & safety audit found some minor housekeeping items which have been addressed.

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

#### Review of Effectiveness

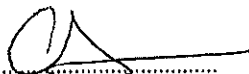
As Accounting Officer, Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the Internal Auditor;
- the work of the External auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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



.....  
D Tilbrook  
Governor and trustee



.....  
C Cronin  
Accounting Officer  
Headteacher

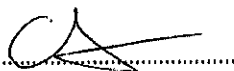
## West Hill School

### Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of West Hill School I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Governing Body and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2022.

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

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



Ms C Cronin  
Accounting Officer

## West Hill School

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 on ~~31/12/22~~ 8/12/23, and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Tilbrook  
Governor and trustee

## West Hill School

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Hill School

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of West Hill School "the academy trust" for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) 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 (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Academy's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## West Hill School

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Hill School (continued)

#### Other information

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### 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 (incorporating the Strategic Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 22, the Trustees 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.

## West Hill School

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Hill School (continued)

#### Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

#### The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the academy sector.
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 and Academies Trust Handbook 2022, both issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud.
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any usual or unexpected relationships.
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

## West Hill School

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Hill School (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

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



.....  
Mr Mark Bradley BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Beever and Struthers, Statutory Auditor

Suite 9B, The Beehive  
Lions Drive  
Shadsworth Business Park  
Blackburn  
Lancashire  
BB1 2QS

Date: 8/12/23

## West Hill School

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Hill School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

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

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Governing Body's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2011 and the Academies Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

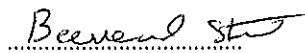
- Review and testing of financial systems of internal control
- Sample testing of transactions
- Discussions with management

**West Hill School**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Hill School  
and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)**

**Conclusion**

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



Mr Mark Bradley BA FCA

For and on behalf of Beever and Struthers, Chartered Accountants

Suite 9B, The Beehive  
Lions Drive  
Shadsworth Business Park  
Blackburn  
Lancashire  
BB1 2QS

Date: 8/12/23

## West Hill School

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	2021/22 Total £ 000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	274	274	396
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	8	5,597	-	5,605	5,244
Other trading activities	4	188	-	-	188	296
Total		<u>196</u>	<u>5,597</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>6,067</u>	<u>5,936</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	5	60	-	-	60	176
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	6	141	5,683	216	6,040	5,871
Total		<u>201</u>	<u>5,683</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>6,100</u>	<u>6,047</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		(5)	(86)	58	(33)	(111)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	76	-	76	2,153
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(5)	(10)	58	43	2,042
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		<u>590</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>14,029</u>	<u>11,987</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>585</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>14,072</u>	<u>14,029</u>

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities is shown in note 26.

**West Hill School**

**(Registration number: 07697027)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023**

	Note	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	13,085	12,763
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	240	606
Cash at bank and in hand		1,147	946
		1,387	1,552
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(199)	(184)
<b>Net current assets</b>		1,188	1,368
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		14,273	14,131
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(201)	(103)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		14,072	14,028
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	-	1
<b>Total net assets including pension liability</b>		14,072	14,029
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund		329	339
Restricted fixed asset fund		13,158	13,100
		13,487	13,439
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund		585	590
<b>Total funds</b>		14,072	14,029

The financial statements on pages 29 to 52 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on .....  
and signed on their behalf by:



Mr D Tilbrook  
Governor and trustee

**West Hill School**

**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Note	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	18	(4)	433
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	19	98	-
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	20	<u>107</u>	<u>(301)</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		201	132
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at 1 September</b>		<u>946</u>	<u>814</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at 31 August</b>	21	<u><u>1,147</u></u>	<u><u>946</u></u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### **Basis of preparation**

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

##### **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 company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **Income**

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

##### **Grants**

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

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

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

##### **Sponsorship income**

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

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Donations*

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

##### *Other income*

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

##### *Donated goods, facilities and services*

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

##### *Donated fixed assets*

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

##### **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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### *Expenditure on raising funds*

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

##### *Charitable activities*

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

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

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.

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Freehold buildings	50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10 years
ICT equipment	4 years
Motor Vehicles	5 years

##### **Liabilities**

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

##### **Provisions**

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

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

##### **Leased assets**

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

##### **Financial Instruments**

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

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 11. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 12 and 13. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

#### Taxation

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

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

#### Pension benefits

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

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 trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 24, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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.

In accordance with FRS102 Section 28, defined benefit pension scheme assets are only recognised when their occurrence results in reduction in the future contribution rate after agreement with the scheme actuary.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other 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 Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions asset at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	2021/22 Total £ 000
Capital grants	274	274	395
Other donations	-	-	1
	<u>274</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>396</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

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

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	2021/22 Total £ 000
<b>Educational operations</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,906	4,906	4,767
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	328	328	157
Pupil Premium	-	230	230	209
	-	5,464	5,464	5,133
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local Authority grants	-	133	133	96
<b>Exceptional government funding</b>				
Covid grants	-	-	-	15
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>				
Other grants	8	-	8	-
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,597</b>	<b>5,605</b>	<b>5,244</b>

#### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	2021/22 Total £ 000
Hire of facilities	57	57	61
Other sales	131	131	235
	188	188	296

**West Hill School**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

**5 Expenditure**

	<b>Non Pay Expenditure</b>			<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>Staff costs £ 000</b>	<b>Premises £ 000</b>	<b>Other costs £ 000</b>	<b>Total £ 000</b>	<b>Total £ 000</b>
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>					
Direct costs	60	-	-	60	176
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	3,674	216	464	4,354	4,294
Allocated support costs	834	581	271	1,686	1,577
	<u>4,568</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>735</u>	<u>6,100</u>	<u>6,047</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 5 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022/23 £ 000	2021/22 £ 000
Fees payable to auditor - audit	7	6
- other audit services	1	1
Depreciation	215	325

#### 6 Charitable activities

	2022/23 £ 000	2021/22 £ 000
Direct costs - educational operations	4,354	4,294
Support costs - educational operations	1,686	1,577
	6,040	5,871

	Educational operations £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	2021/22 Total £ 000
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	834	834	921
Technology costs	87	87	10
Premises costs	581	581	385
Other support costs	173	173	251
Governance costs	11	11	10
Total support costs	1,686	1,686	1,577

#### 7 Staff

Staff costs

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	3,263	3,208
Social security costs	346	331
Pension costs	769	1,002
	4,378	4,541
Supply teacher costs	55	26
	4,433	4,567

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 7 Staff (continued)

##### Staff numbers

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

	2022/23 No	2021/22 No
Teachers	52	54
Administration and support	33	36
Management	7	7
	<u>92</u>	<u>97</u>

##### Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23 No	2021/22 No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

##### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £588,403 (2022: £602,940).

#### 8 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees (2022: 0) have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the academy trust.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 25.

#### 9 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £ 000	Computer equipment £ 000	Fixtures and fittings £ 000	Motor vehicles £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2022	15,069	515	1,075	73	16,732
Additions	<u>390</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>537</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>15,459</u>	<u>662</u>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>17,269</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	2,388	499	1,009	73	3,969
Charge for the year	<u>246</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(35)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,634</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>974</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>4,184</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,825</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,085</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>12,681</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,763</u>

#### 11 Debtors

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
Other debtors	189	572
Prepayments	<u>51</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>240</u>	<u>606</u>

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

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
Trade creditors	61	25
Loans	11	11
Accruals	91	98
Deferred income	<u>36</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>199</u>	<u>184</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Loans of £98k were received in the year from ESFA, £188k CIF loan repayable over 10 years and £13k salix loan repayable over 8 years.

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	50	84
Resources deferred in the period	36	50
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(84)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>36</u>	<u>50</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for various grant monies received relating to the year 2022/23.

#### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
Loans	<u>201</u>	<u>103</u>

Loans of £98k were received in the year from ESFA, £188k CIF loan repayable over 10 years and £13k salix loan repayable over 8 years.

**West Hill School**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

**14 Funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 September 2022 £ 000</b>	<b>Incoming resources £ 000</b>	<b>Resources expended £ 000</b>	<b>Gains, losses and transfers £ 000</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2023 £ 000</b>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	339	4,906	(4,916)	-	329
Other DfE/EFA Grants	-	461	(461)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	230	(230)	-	-
<b>Total restricted general funds</b>	<u>339</u>	<u>5,597</u>	<u>(5,607)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>329</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	9,132	-	(107)	-	9,025
Capital expenditure from GAG	376	-	(15)	-	361
DfE/EFA Capital Grants	3,584	274	(94)	-	3,764
Transfers between funds	8	-	-	-	8
	<u>13,100</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>(216)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,158</u>
<b>Restricted pension fund</b>					
Pension reserve	-	-	(76)	76	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>13,439</u>	<u>5,871</u>	<u>(5,899)</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>13,487</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>590</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>(201)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>585</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>14,029</u>	<u>6,067</u>	<u>(6,100)</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>14,072</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 14 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains, losses and transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £ 000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	300	4,748	(4,709)	-	339
Other DfE/EFA Grants	1	240	(241)	-	-
Local Authority Grants	-	96	(96)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	160	(160)	-	-
	<u>301</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>(5,206)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>339</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	9,351	-	(219)	-	9,132
Capital expenditure from GAG	406	-	(30)	-	376
DfE/EFA Capital Grants	3,264	395	(75)	-	3,584
Transfers between funds	8	-	-	-	8
	<u>13,029</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>(324)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,100</u>
<b>Restricted pension fund</b>					
Pension reserve	<u>(1,811)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(342)</u>	<u>2,153</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	11,519	5,639	(5,872)	2,153	13,439
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>469</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>(176)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>590</u>
Total funds	<u>11,988</u>	<u>5,936</u>	<u>(6,048)</u>	<u>2,153</u>	<u>14,029</u>

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

#### Restricted funds:

Some types of funding that the Academy receives has a restriction attached to it. Examples of this are pupil premium, Year 7 catch up and PE Grants. Where there is a restriction the Academy ensures that all the criteria for use is adhered to and that we can demonstrate appropriate expenditure.

#### Unrestricted funds:

Where the Academy receives funds that have no expenditure constraints this is classed as un-restricted. However the Academy will always ensure that expenditure for this type of income is wholly appropriate to the advancement of the education of pupils or to the maintenance of its premises.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted general funds £ 000	Restricted fixed asset funds £ 000	Total funds £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,085	13,085
Current assets	585	631	171	1,387
Current liabilities	-	(199)	-	(199)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(103)	(98)	(201)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>13,158</b>	<b>14,072</b>

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

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted general funds £ 000	Restricted fixed asset funds £ 000	Total funds £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,763	12,763
Current assets	590	626	337	1,553
Current liabilities	-	(184)	-	(184)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(103)	-	(103)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>14,029</b>

#### 16 Capital commitments

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	195	28

#### 17 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

##### *Operating leases*

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
Amounts due within one year	1	1
Amounts due between one and five years	-	1
	1	2

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Net expenditure	(33)	(113)
Depreciation	215	325
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(274)	(395)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	104	310
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(28)	32
Decrease in debtors	7	122
Increase in creditors	5	49
Increase/(decrease) in loans greater than one year	-	103
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	<u>(4)</u>	<u>433</u>

#### 19 Cash flows from financing activities

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Repayments of borrowing	(2)	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	100	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>98</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 20 Cash flows from investing activities

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(526)	(696)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	633	395
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>107</u>	<u>(301)</u>

#### 21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	1,147	946
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,147</u>	<u>946</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £ 000	Cash flows £ 000	At 31 August 2023 £ 000
Cash	946	202	1,147
Loans falling due within one year	(11)	-	(11)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(103)	(98)	(201)
	(114)	(98)	(212)
Total	832	104	935

#### 23 Member liability

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

#### 24 Pension and similar obligations

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 Tameside Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

#### 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 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.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £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 SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £569,224 (2022: £557,100).

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

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

##### Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £207,000 (2022 - £185,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £152,000 (2022 - £136,000) and employees' contributions totalled £55,000 (2022 - £49,000). Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80	4.00
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.20
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.20</u>	<u>4.30</u>

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

**West Hill School**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

**24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	18.70	20.30
Females retiring today	22.50	23.20
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	20.60	21.60
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>24.50</u>	<u>25.10</u>
<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Discount rate +0.1%	-84.00	-93.00
Discount rate -0.1%	84.00	93.00
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	161.00	175.00
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	-161.00	-175.00
CPI rate +0.1%	75.00	85.00
CPI rate -0.1%	-75.00	-85.00
Salary increase +0.1%	10.00	9.00
Salary increase -0.1%	<u>-10.00</u>	<u>-9.00</u>

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Equities	3,719	3,493
Government bonds	744	709
Property	425	455
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>425</u>	<u>405</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>5,313</u>	<u>5,062</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £130,000 (2022 - £66,000).

**Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Current service cost	(256)	(446)
Interest income	218	82
Interest cost	<u>(190)</u>	<u>(114)</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(228)</u>	<u>(478)</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
At start of period	4,371	6,703
Current service cost	256	446
Interest cost	190	114
Employee contributions	55	49
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(770)	(2,860)
Benefits paid	(86)	(81)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,016</b>	<b>4,371</b>

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

	2023 £ 000	2022 £ 000
At start of period	5,062	4,892
Interest income	218	82
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(88)	(16)
Employer contributions	152	136
Employee contributions	55	49
Benefits paid	(86)	(81)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>5,313</b>	<b>5,062</b>

Considering the impact of "asset ceiling" and that the pension scheme surplus cannot be recovered, the balance of the net defined pension scheme asset £1,297,000 (2022: £691,000) has been written off to the statement of financial activities. The net asset/liability is therefore Nil. This treatment is in accordance with FRS102 section 28. The actuarial gain recognised in the year is reduced by the value of the net pension asset of £1,297,000 (2022: £691,000) from £682,000 (2022: £2,844,000) to £615,000 (2022: £2,153,000).

#### 25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 8.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 26 Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	Total 2022 £ 000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	1	-	395	396
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	5,244	-	5,244
Other trading activities	4	296	-	-	296
<b>Total</b>		<u>297</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>5,936</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	176	-	-	176
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	6	-	5,547	324	5,871
<b>Total</b>		<u>176</u>	<u>5,547</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>6,047</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		121	(303)	71	(111)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	2,153	-	2,153
Net movement in funds		121	1,850	71	2,042
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		<u>469</u>	<u>(1,511)</u>	<u>13,029</u>	<u>11,987</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		<u>590</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>14,029</u>