

Registration number: 07697027

# West Hill School

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

# West Hill School

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## West Hill School

### Reference and administrative details

<b>Members</b>	Dr M Davies Mr I Berry Mr P Holden Mrs J Littlewood Mr I Sharkett
<b>Governors and Trustees (Directors)</b>	Dr M Davies - Deputy Chair (resigned 1 September 2024) Mr D Tilbrook - Chair Mr M Stimpson (resigned 1 September 2024) Mrs J Mirtorabi (appointed Deputy Chair 17 September 2024) Ms S Smith Mrs G Parkes (resigned 3 July 2024) Mrs S Din Mr S Barton (resigned 10 May 2024) Mrs K Davis (appointed 27 September 2023) Mrs H Mistry (appointed 1 September 2024) Mr D Greenwood (appointed 11 October 2024) Ms C Harrop (appointed 11 October 2024) Mrs A Patel (appointed 11 October 2024)
<b>Head Teacher</b>	Ms C Cronin
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Ms C Cronin, Headteacher Mr P Butterworth, Deputy Head Mr J Watt, Deputy Head Mr M O'Dowd, Assistant Head Miss J Staples, Assistant Head Mrs K Anderton, Assistant Head Mrs A Barton, Assistant Head Miss K Shackleton, Business Manager
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	Stamford Street Stalybridge Cheshire SK15 1LX
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	07697027
<b>Auditors</b>	Beever and Struthers Chartered Accountants Suite 16B, The Beehive Lions Drive Shadsworth Business Park Blackburn Lancashire BB1 2QS

## West Hill School

### Reference and administrative details (continued)

#### 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 2024

#### 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 2024. 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 850 and had a roll of 855 as of 19th November 2024.

#### 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.

##### *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.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### *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 seven members: one headteacher, two deputy head teachers, four assistant head teachers. 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 Headteachers 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 local government pay spine.

#### **Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
3	3

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

Percentage of time	<b>Number of employees</b>
1%-50%	3

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

	<b>2024</b>
Provide the total cost of facility time	£1,853.00
Provide the total pay bill	£4,610,000.00

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

	<b>2024</b>
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	1

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (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 students and staff
- Inspiring students 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

##### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

Building on from the previous academic year, the focus for the academy for the year ending August 2024 remained primarily around three key areas, with 3 aims:

Curriculum - Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- Designed a carefully sequenced and ambitious curriculum, notably within a focus at KS3.
- Increase the regular and routine practice of formative assessment through tailored CPD with The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT)/ Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), within a 2-year investment
- Improve assessment design, capture and communication of students' learning through reports
- Ensure incisive feedback is in place and all pupils given the opportunity to respond

Leadership and Management:

- Drive standards and practice of ambition and empowerment within a newly formed Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Middle Leaders
- Support leaders in networking hubs and development of best practice
- Continue to support all staff on the elements of the plan for delivery
- 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:

- Increased tracking of low-disruption hot spot areas
- Increase contact with parents of persistent absentees
- Investment within SEN and pastoral teams through CPD and staffing to ensure needs of upcoming cohorts is matched (growing SEN)
- Embed IAG activities across the curriculum.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### *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.

#### **Strategic Report**

##### **Achievements and performance**

##### **Academic Performance**

Performance at KS4 across a wide range of subjects in 2024 led to a Progress 8 score of -0.33 which is 'below average'. This is comparable with the 2023 outcomes of -0.31. The significant factor in the whole school progress 8 score are the English outcomes. Academic outcomes are average for Tameside school performance.

From 2024 outcomes, our strongest performing prior attaining band was low prior attaining (-0.19 in 2023 to -0.05 in 2024), mid prior attaining (-0.35 in 2023 to -0.17 in 2024) then high prior attaining (-0.29 in 2023 to -0.65 in 2024). Overall P8 for 2024 outcomes was -0.33. Three of our SIP priorities are focused around the quality of the curriculum intent, notably the level of challenge, assessment and engagement, and its implementation and school-wide interventions to close gaps within data analysis. The school has been on a significant journey in ensuring the behaviour and attitudes of the students are improved and now a greater shift is needed on the rigour and ambition of our curriculum. Our staffing model from 2023-24 has focused on greater pastoral support and capacity within the immediacy of need in the day, alongside restorative practice and relational inclusion.

The overall school population is in quintile 4 (more deprived), this has fallen from average; the school location is also in quintile 4 (more deprived). 25% of students are in receipt of free school meals with 31% on the Pupil Premium register. This reflects a pattern of greater deprivation within two years moving from 132 students in receipt of free school meals in 2022-23 to 215. Students on the PP register from 203 in 2022-23 to 261 in 2024. Additionally, students with an active SEND status have grown in number from 120 to 158, those with K support from 107 students to 143. The growing number of SEND and FSM learners has been an integral driver behind recruitment and the CPD investment in adaptive implementation in the classroom and the co-curricular school programme. There has been an increase in students requiring Speech and Language support with consequent training of our LSAs in EKLAN to support the growing needs of the boys and the increase in current primary-aged students with Speech and Language needs. There have been delays with gaining the appropriate support or information from the Tameside SEND team. The pastoral team support a rising number of young men with SEMH issues and there are links between mental health, absence and underperformance. The number of looked after children has increased in recent years (11 at present). There are 7 young carers. There are 15 students with EHCPs.

The majority of students are White British, 76% falling from 85% in 2016, with the national average at 63%. The number of students with English as an additional language has risen over time to 7% with national figures of 18%. The largest second language being Urdu at 6%.

##### **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 as we await this outcome. 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 NEETs compared to local and national data.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### School Improvement Plan

The SIP focuses around the following areas for improvement and relate to the School Evaluation Form (SEF):

1. Evaluation and collation of the intended curriculum departmentally and whole school so that the curriculum intent is fully mapped with clear knowledge and skills at end points, empowering all learners to succeed, with empowered Curriculum Leaders and staff implementing with purpose. What we say we do, we deliver.
2. Strategic development and coordination of assessment throughout the curriculum to ensure consistency of purpose and validity so that students' understanding is measured accurately with post-data evaluation processes that are secure and effective in closing gaps in knowledge and informing responsive teaching.
3. Embed purposeful whole school and departmental quality assurance that informs a range of evidence-based strategies so that accurate accounts of department and whole school quality are measured and acted on.
4. Further develop a culture of excellence through the embedding of the 'West Hill Way' so that the inclusion of all students is paramount with clear expectations for all to succeed through adaptive teaching and restorative practice.
5. Further develop a consistent rewarding and leadership system that recognises character, resilience and leadership so that all students engage within school life with clear opportunities and impact mapped.
6. Further develop leadership at all levels through coaching and CPD so that we realise vision, set standards and hold accountability to drive improvement.

#### *Key performance indicators*

Salary costs for the financial year were 82% of the delegated revenue income from the DfE compared to 81% 2022/23. Increased costs for Employer Pension contributions and the Pay award for Teachers were funded with additional Grants. Support Staff pay award of 5.5% was not funded and financed from the school.

Staff training – An average of £248.53 was spent on staff training (course cost provision) (based on all FTE staff of 77.77) over the financial year compared to £148 in 2022/23. The cost of training has increased in line with invested development of our teams across both Teacher and Support Staff. Engagement has been excellent with pivotal support from the SLT for staff development. All staff continue to have unlimited access to training courses provided by the National College relevant to their work / subject area with the addition of access to Iris Connect. Statutory training is monitored and reported via a single Central Register.

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students, it has been necessary for all teaching and support staff to undergo a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. This is a standard procedure to maintain our high safeguarding standards and to comply with the latest regulatory requirements. It will be standard practice moving forward for the school to complete a new DBS for each member of staff as to not exceed a certificate issue date of more than 3 years.

Absence – there have been 190 days lost to sickness. Cost of externally sourced teaching supply staff in 2023/24 was £28K (split of 21K Teachers and £7K Support Staff) compared to £81K 2022/23. This decrease was due to minimal maternity cover and 2 full time cover supervisors in post.

Utilities - Costs of Utilities increased by 41% to £386K in 2023/24 for Gas, Electricity and Water. The unprecedented increases in utilities following Covid and the energy crisis was the major factor in the increase. The school did not receive any benefit from business rebates schemes as they did in 2022/23. In addition, there was a major water leak that had gone undetected. In agreement with Trustees, the Sports Hall utility costs were evaluated and correct offset charges incurred from hire times were recovered.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (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.

No Capital bids were submitted for 2023/24 but the works agreed and funded in 2022/23 from the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) for installation of Fire Doors and improve Fire Security on site were completed in April 2024. As this project overlapped across 2 academic years this resulting in reserves spend of £50,000.

Works completed in the school year were funding from the 2023/24 budget and have resulted in a vast improvement to moral receiving positive feedback from both Staff and Students.

#### Areas to note:

- Full refurbishment of the school catering facilities with increased capacity, improving queue times and experience of the service
- A centre for the SENCO team and students was created
- An area for the AIM Higher Team was created alongside an upgrade of the Learning Support Classroom
- Full Refurbishment of Visitor toilet
- Replacement of all school chairs across site
- Replacement of Boiler to Science block in addition to multiple repairs to gas infrastructure
- Upgrade of 28 CCTV Cameras
- Installation of 4 Air conditioning units

#### Current Assets

The trust held cash at hand balances (excluding pension) as at 31 August 2024 of £1,051,000 which was a decrease from 2022/23 of £96k (8.37%). Although the budget held strong, £50k was taken from reserves for capital works as already outlined, £32k was recovered from the unused National Tutoring Program Grant and the income from the sports hall was reduced.

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 2024 (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, £458k

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

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

The results from the FRS102 section 28 valuation report show the trust's pension liability as at 31 August 2024 as a net asset of 1,592,000. In accordance with FRS102 section 28 this asset has been recognised at nil value in the financial statements at 31 August 2024.

#### FRS102 as at 31 August 2024 - Results Schedule

Pool : West Hill School

Local Government Pension Scheme Fund : Greater Manchester Pension Fund

Terms of Engagement Signed : 28 March 2024

Date report prepared : 24 September 2024

#### Summary information from this schedule:

##### (a) Balance sheet

	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Assets	5,931	5,313
Obligations	4,339	4,016
Net asset / (liability)	1,592	1,297

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%. There has been no further increase reported and employer rate as of 31 August 2024 remains at 17.00% forecasted until 31 March 2026.

#### *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 trusts 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 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.

There are challenges remaining over the ongoing funding for Pay and Pension uplifts from the DfE. Rising costs of staffing do not match the increased funding in the annual grant which makes forward budget forecasting difficult. 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 reports to trustees to form 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.

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### **Fundraising**

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

#### ***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.

#### **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 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. In the summer of 2024, stakeholders worked together to rewrite our school vision as the following:

#### **At West Hill, we have an uncompromised, aspirational vision that:**

- Everybody will experience a rich curriculum that expands beyond the classroom, empowering them to feel successful and make ambitious future choices.
- Every lesson enables individual success through quality adaptive teaching and shared expectations.
- Everybody matters and has a right to be safe, valued and treated with kindness.
- Everybody will be supported to develop a healthy understanding of themselves and respect for others.
- Everybody will be ready and take responsibility for their own learning, choosing thoughtful behaviours that show empathy for others.
- Everybody in our West Hill family will collaborate and support each other to realise their aspirations and celebrate success.

**This forms our West Hill way.**

## West Hill School

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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 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. Voice work is conducted three times per year with feedback from parents/carers, students and staff being triangulated to recognise the strengths in practice but also to work on feedback to move us forward.

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

#### *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 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 ~~11/12/2024~~ and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Tilbrook - Chair  
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 Governance 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.

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

### 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 8 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	5	6
Mr D Tilbrook - Chair	6	6
Mr S Barton (resigned 10 May 2024)	4	6
Mrs J Mirtorabi (appointed Deputy Chair 17 September 2024)	3	6
Mrs G Parkes (resigned 3 July 2024)	3	5
Ms S Smith	5	6
Mrs S Din	6	6
Mrs K Davis (appointed 27 September 2023)	4	6

### Key Changes to the Board

Governors and Trustees (Directors):

- Dr M Davies (resigned 1 September 2024)
- Mr S Barton (resigned 10 May 2024)
- Mrs G Parkes (resigned 3 July 2024)
- Mrs K Davies (appointed 27 September 2023)
- Mr M Stimpson (resigned 1 September 2024)
- Mrs H Mistry (appointed 1 September 2024)
- Mr D Greenwood (appointed 11 October 2024)
- Ms C Harrop (appointed 11 October 2024)
- Mrs A Patel (appointed 11 October 2024)

## West Hill School

### Governance Statement (continued)

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.

Board meetings with a finance focus (Audit Committee) have been held five times across the year. Monthly management reports are submitted to the Governor Hub Portal, this ensures that all trustees have the opportunity to review and question aspects of the financial position of the school.

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:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Mrs S Din	5	5
Mr M Stimpson (resigned 1 September 2024)	5	5
Ms S Smith	4	5

#### **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 maybe received these are recorded and either returned or used for the benefit of the school.

#### **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.

## 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.

#### *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 2023 to 31st August 2024 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 2023 to 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### ***The Risk 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 audit committee has considered the need for a specific internal audit to assess the potential risk of financial mismanagement and engaged an internal audit for this purpose. These services were procured from ASCL Professional Development.

Reports from stage 1 and 2 of these audits were received with recommendations actioned accordingly.

## 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  
Chair of Trustees



.....  
C Cronin  
Accounting Officer

## 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 2024.

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 2024.

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 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 12/12/2024 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 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024, 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 2023 to 2024 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 Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2024 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 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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

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

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

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

#### 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.

## West Hill School

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

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, which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the 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 19, 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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **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.

## West Hill School

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

#### Extent to which the Audit was Considered Capable of Detecting Irregularities, Including Fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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 senior statutory auditor 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 trust through discussion 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 trust, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 and Academy Trust Handbook 2023, 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 trust'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 unusual or unexpected relationships.
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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.

## West Hill School

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

#### 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 16B, The Beehive  
Lions Drive  
Shadsworth Business Park  
Blackburn  
Lancashire  
BB1 2QS

Date: 13 December 2024

## 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 2023 to 2024, 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to 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 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Approach**

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

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

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion. Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

**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 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Mr Mark Bradley BA FCA  
For and on behalf of Beever and Struthers, Chartered Accountants

Suite 16B, The Beehive  
Lions Drive  
Shadsworth Business Park  
Blackburn  
Lancashire  
BB1 2QS

Date: 13 December 2024

**West Hill School**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)**

Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000	
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	(58)	(58)	274
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	6,028	-	6,028	5,605
Other trading activities	4	98	-	-	98	188
Investments		1	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>99</u>	<u>6,028</u>	<u>(58)</u>	<u>6,069</u>	<u>6,067</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	5	71	-	-	71	60
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	6	15	5,880	314	6,209	6,040
<b>Total</b>		<u>86</u>	<u>5,880</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>6,280</u>	<u>6,100</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		13	148	(372)	(211)	(33)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(55)	-	(55)	76
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		13	93	(372)	(266)	43
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		<u>585</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>14,072</u>	<u>14,029</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		<u>598</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>12,786</u>	<u>13,806</u>	<u>14,072</u>


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

## West Hill School

**(Registration number: 07697027)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024**

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	13,116	13,085
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	108	240
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,051</u>	<u>1,147</u>
		1,159	1,387
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(281)</u>	<u>(199)</u>
Net current assets		<u>878</u>	<u>1,188</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		13,994	14,273
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	<u>(188)</u>	<u>(201)</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		13,806	14,072
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b><u>13,806</u></b>	<b><u>14,072</u></b>
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund	14	422	329
Restricted fixed asset fund	14	<u>12,786</u>	<u>13,158</u>
		13,208	13,487
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund	14	<u>598</u>	<u>585</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>13,806</u></b>	<b><u>14,072</u></b>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 52 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 11/12/24 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 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	18	320	(4)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	19	(12)	98
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	20	<u>(404)</u>	<u>107</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		(96)	201
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at 1 September</b>		<u>1,147</u>	<u>946</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at 31 August</b>	21	<u><u>1,051</u></u>	<u><u>1,147</u></u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

#### 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 2023 to 2024 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.

##### **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.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Other income*

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

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

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the 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 2024 (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 2024 (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 & 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 2024 (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 24, 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 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Capital grants	(58)	(58)	274

The Academy Trust received Capital grants during the year of £18k (2023: £274k). In 2023 there was an over accrual of CIF income of £75k that was not received, hence the negative figure of £58k in this financial year.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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

	Restricted General Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
<b>Educational operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,234	5,234	4,906
Other DfE/ESFA grants	148	148	54
Pupil Premium	239	239	230
Teachers Pay Grant	96	96	-
Teachers Pension Grant	50	50	-
Recovery Premium	62	62	45
Mainstream Additional Grant	109	109	78
Supplementary Grant	-	-	151
	5,938	5,938	5,464
<b>Other government grants</b>			
Local Authority grants	90	90	133
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>			
Other grants	-	-	8
Total grants	6,028	6,028	5,605

#### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Hire of facilities	65	65	57
Other sales	33	33	131
	98	98	188

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 5 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
	Staff costs £ 000	Premises £ 000	Other costs £ 000		
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>					
Direct costs	71	-	-	71	60
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	3,975	314	239	4,528	4,354
Allocated support costs	744	678	259	1,681	1,686
	<u>4,790</u>	<u>992</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>6,280</u>	<u>6,100</u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 5 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Fees payable to auditor - audit	12	7
- other audit services	2	1
Depreciation	315	215

#### 6 Charitable activities

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Direct costs - educational operations	4,528	4,354
Support costs - educational operations	1,681	1,686
	6,209	6,040

	Educational operations £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	744	744	834
Technology costs	103	103	87
Premises costs	678	678	581
Other support costs	153	153	173
Governance costs	3	3	11
Total support costs	1,681	1,681	1,686

#### 7 Staff

##### Staff costs

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	3,514	3,263
Social security costs	360	346
Pension costs	799	769
	4,673	4,378
Supply teacher costs	77	55
	4,750	4,433

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 7 Staff (continued)

##### Staff numbers

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No	No
Teachers	55	52
Administration and support	38	33
Management	7	7
	<u>100</u>	<u>92</u>

##### Higher paid staff

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	4	2
£70,001 - £80,000	-	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 £826,638 (2023: £588,403).

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

No trustees (2023: 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 26.

#### 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 2024 (continued)

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £ 000	Computer equipment £ 000	Fixtures and fittings £ 000	Motor vehicles £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2023	15,459	662	1,075	73	17,269
Additions	231	75	40	-	346
At 31 August 2024	<u>15,690</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>1,115</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>17,615</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2023	2,634	503	974	73	4,184
Charge for the year	254	41	20	-	315
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,888</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>994</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>4,499</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2024	<u>12,802</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,116</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,825</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,085</u>

#### 11 Debtors

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Other debtors	38	188
Prepayments	70	52
	<u>108</u>	<u>240</u>

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

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Trade creditors	12	61
Loans	11	11
Accruals	258	91
Deferred income	-	36
	<u>281</u>	<u>199</u>

At the year end loans were £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 2024 (continued)

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

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	36	50
Resources deferred in the period	-	36
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>36</u>

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

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Loans	<u>188</u>	<u>201</u>

At the year end loans were £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 2024 (continued)

#### 14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains, losses and transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £ 000
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	329	5,234	(5,141)	-	422
Other DfE/EFA Grants	-	148	(148)	-	-
Local Authority Grants	-	90	(90)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	239	(239)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	96	(96)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	50	(50)	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	62	(62)	-	-
Mainstream Additional Grant	-	109	(109)	-	-
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	9,025	-	-	-	9,025
Capital expenditure from GAG	369	(58)	-	-	311
DfE/EFA Capital Grants	3,764	-	(314)	-	3,450
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Pension reserve	-	-	55	(55)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>13,487</u>	<u>5,970</u>	<u>(6,194)</u>	<u>(55)</u>	<u>13,208</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted funds	<u>585</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>(86)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>598</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>585</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>(86)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>598</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>14,072</u></u>	<u><u>6,069</u></u>	<u><u>(6,280)</u></u>	<u><u>(55)</u></u>	<u><u>13,806</u></u>

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 14 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains, losses and transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £ 000
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	339	4,906	(4,916)	-	329
Other DfE/EFA Grants	-	461	(461)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	230	(230)	-	-
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	9,132	-	(107)	-	9,025
Capital expenditure from GAG	384	-	(15)	-	369
DfE/EFA Capital Grants	3,584	274	(94)	-	3,764
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Pension reserve	-	-	(76)	76	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>13,439</b>	<b>5,871</b>	<b>(5,899)</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>13,487</b>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted funds	590	196	(201)	-	585
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>(201)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>585</b>
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>14,029</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>(6,100)</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>14,072</b>

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 2024 (continued)

#### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £ 000	Restricted general funds £ 000	Restricted fixed asset funds £ 000	Total funds £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,116	13,116
Current assets	598	703	(142)	1,159
Current liabilities	-	(281)	-	(281)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(188)	(188)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>12,786</b>	<b>13,806</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	-	-	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>

#### 16 Capital commitments

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	195

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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

##### *Operating leases*

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Amounts due within one year	1	1
Amounts due between one and five years	50	-
	51	1

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Net expenditure	(211)	(33)
Depreciation	315	215
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	58	(274)
Interest receivable	(1)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	12	104
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(67)	(28)
Decrease in debtors	132	7
Increase in creditors	82	5
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	320	(4)

#### 19 Cash flows from financing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Repayments of borrowing	(12)	(2)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	100
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	(12)	98

#### 20 Cash flows from investing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(346)	(526)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	(58)	633
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(403)	107

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	1,051	1,147
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,051	1,147

#### 22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	<b>At 1 September 2023 £ 000</b>	<b>Cash flows £ 000</b>	<b>At 31 August 2024 £ 000</b>
Cash	1,147	(96)	1,051
Loans falling due within one year	(11)	-	(11)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(201)	13	(188)
	(212)	13	(199)
Total	935	(83)	852

#### 23 Contingent liabilities

West Hill is aware of the 2023 ruling in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustee case and subsequent court of appeal ruling published in July 2024.

These ruled that certain amendments made to the NTL Pension Plan were invalid because they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation.

There remains significant uncertainty as to whether the judgments will result in additional liabilities for UK pension schemes, and it is possible that the Department of Work & Pensions will introduce legislation to allow changes to be certified retrospectively.

A detailed review of historic documentation will be needed to determine whether the changes made by the Scheme were valid (assuming retrospective certification does not become an option), and such a review will take some time to complete.

As a result, West Hill cannot be certain of the potential implications (if any) and therefore a sufficiently reliable estimate of any effect on the obligation cannot be made.

#### 24 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.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

#### 25 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 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

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.

#### 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 £589,805 (2023: £569,224).

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 schemes

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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

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 2024 was £213,000 (2023 - £207,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £157,000 (2023 - £152,000) and employees' contributions totalled £56,000 (2023 - £55,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 28.4-29.2 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Hymans Robertson LLP.

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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>
Discount rate %	5.00	5.20
Salary scale increases per annum %	3.50	3.80
Pension increases %	<u>2.70</u>	<u>3.00</u>

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	18.60	18.70
Females retiring today	22.50	22.50
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	20.50	20.60
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>24.40</u>	<u>24.50</u>

#### Sensitivity analysis

	<b>2024 £ 000</b>	<b>2023 £ 000</b>
Discount rate +0.1%	(90)	(84)
Discount rate -0.1%	90	84
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	174	161
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(174)	(161)
CPI rate +0.1%	87	75
CPI rate -0.1%	(870)	(75)
Salary increase +0.1%	5	10
Salary increase -0.1%	<u>(5)</u>	<u>(10)</u>

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

	<b>2024 £ 000</b>	<b>2023 £ 000</b>
Equities	4,092	3,719
Government bonds	891	744
Property	474	425
Cash	<u>474</u>	<u>425</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>5,931</u>	<u>5,313</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

## West Hill School

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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

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

	2024/23 £ 000	2023/22 £ 000
Current service cost	(169)	(256)
Interest income	279	218
Interest cost	<u>(212)</u>	<u>(190)</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(102)</u>	<u>(228)</u>

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

	2024/23 £ 000	2023/22 £ 000
At start of period	4,016	4,371
Current service cost	169	256
Interest cost	212	190
Employee contributions	56	55
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(16)	(770)
Benefits paid	<u>(98)</u>	<u>(86)</u>
At 31 August	<u>4,339</u>	<u>4,016</u>

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

	2024/23 £ 000	2023/22 £ 000
At start of period	5,313	5,062
Interest income	279	218
Actuarial gain/(loss)	224	(88)
Employer contributions	157	152
Employee contributions	56	55
Benefits paid	<u>(98)</u>	<u>(86)</u>
At 31 August	<u>5,931</u>	<u>5,313</u>

Considering the impact of "asset ceiling" and that the pension scheme surplus cannot be recovered, the balance of the net defined pension scheme asset £1,592,000 (2023: £1,297,000) 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 £1,592,000 (2023: £1,297,000) from £240,000 (2023: £682,000) to £1,352,000 (2023: £615,000).

#### 26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the governing body 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 2024 (continued)

#### 27 Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	274	274
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	8	5,597	-	5,605
Other trading activities	4	188	-	-	188
Total		<u>196</u>	<u>5,597</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>6,067</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	60	-	-	60
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	6	141	5,683	216	6,040
Total		<u>201</u>	<u>5,683</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>6,100</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		(5)	(86)	58	(33)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	76	-	76
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(5)	(10)	58	43
<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>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>585</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>14,072</u>