

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

S Hudson, Chair
C Bhargava (resigned 31 December 2022)
M Evans (resigned 31 December 2022)
D Hagg
A McConaighie
H Parker (appointed 1 January 2023)
J Thompson (appointed 1 January 2023)

Trustees

N Riglar, Chair
J Gilbert, Vice Chair
G Ayre (resigned 31 January 2023)
B Green (resigned 13 March 2023)
J L Exworthy (appointed 1 March 2023)
R Hollier
J Taylor (resigned 6 October 2023)
N Wadley
K L Wilson, Chief Executive (appointed 1 May 2023)
S Wilson (resigned 30 April 2023)

Company registered number

07692339

Charity registered number

07692339

Company name

Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust

Principal and registered office

Cainscross Road
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL5 4HE

Company secretary

E Gray

Chief executive officer

S Wilson, resigned 30 April 2023
K L Wilson, appointed 1 May 2023

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

Senior management team

S Wilson, CEO, resigned 30 April 2023
K L Wilson, CEO, appointed 1 May 2023
E Gray, Chief Finance and Operations Officer
A Robbins, Headteacher
L Bennett, Headteacher
G Balmer, Headteacher
A MacDonald, Deputy Headteacher
S Farr, Assistant Headteacher
R Reid, Assistant Headteacher
J Dale, Assistant Headteacher
L Harris, Assistant Headteacher
S Bailey, Assistant Headteacher
T Wainwright, Deputy Headteacher
N Lawday, Deputy Headteacher
R Stewart, Operations Manager

Independent auditor

Crowe U.K. LLP
Black Country House
Rounds Green Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2DG

Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc
4 King Street
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL5 3DS

Solicitors

Stone King LLP
13 Queen Square
Bath
BA1 2HJ

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Academy for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Trust operates as a Multi Academy Trust with four schools by the end of the financial year ending 31 August 2023:

- **Marling School**, a selective secondary academy for boys with a coeducational sixth form in Stroud, drawing students from the local area as well as wider Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol. It has a pupil capacity of 1150 and had a roll of 1237 in the autumn term 2022.
- **Berkeley Primary School**, an academy for mixed pupils aged 2 to 11 in Berkeley. It has a pupil capacity of 190 and had a roll of 197 in the autumn term 2022. Berkeley Primary School also runs a Nursery School for pupils aged 2 to 4 which has a roll of 34.
- **Cam Woodfield Junior School** an academy for mixed pupils aged 7 to 11 in Cam. It has a pupil capacity of 240 and had a roll of 188 in the autumn term 2022.
- **Callowell Primary School**, an academy for mixed pupils aged 2 to 11 in Stroud. It has a pupil capacity of 210 and had a roll of 142 on joining the Trust on 1 July 2023

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The principal object and activity of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, managing, and developing our schools so that they deliver an outstanding education for all.

The Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust vision is to develop a thriving partnership of schools that work together to generate and celebrate success and to create opportunities for our students and staff that raise aspirations and inspire excellence. The Trust values of Excellence, Respect and Endeavour have been newly formed following consultation with all staff.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

Schools in the Trust are committed to:

- Creating opportunities that raise aspirations and inspire excellence in students and staff
- Promoting high levels of personal development and well-being in our students
- Forming a distinctive partnership of schools that value their uniqueness and collegiality
- High quality leadership and teaching, with a highly creative curriculum
- Maintaining a relentless focus on high standards and excellent outcomes for our students
- Creating opportunities for staff development to enable us to recruit, develop and retain the very best teachers and leaders
- Develop the Academy sites so that they enable students to achieve their full potential.
- Innovating together for the benefit of our students and staff
- Fostering relationships where autonomy and accountability go hand in hand
- Creating a strong, financially resilient organisation that achieves efficiency savings for mutual benefit allowing us to focus resources on teaching and learning.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Key priorities for the year are contained in our Trust Strategic One Year Plan. Priorities for 2023 - 24 were identified under the following headings:

A Learning and Listening Organisation - enabling our people through learning and development

CBAT will ensure that:

- The trust will have clear core values and audacious goals which will be seen and felt in each individual school
- All schools will be good or better
- Educational experiences across the Trust are wide and varied and improving at Secondary and Primary

An effective organisation - with great staffing structures, processes and compliance transformation

CBAT will ensure that:

- Clear and concise communication is the norm
- Policies, procedures, systems and processes will be secure, robust and compliant Trust wide
- The organisation's business and educational functions will have the right leaders in place for impact

A flourishing organisation - with an impeccable reputation, high performing staff and high expectations

CBAT will ensure that:

- Trust posts will contribute to School Improvement significantly
- CBAT begins to build capacity for growth
- Governance will be good and improving with strength at all levels

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Academy's purposes for the public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Academy

The Multi Academy Trust has completed its seventh year of operation. Student recruitment is good in all the schools, particularly at Marling where the fifth year of Sixth Form co-education has seen high levels of interest. Numbers entering Year 3 at Cam Woodfield Junior School has increased on previous years and there is continued improvement in in year intake across all year groups. Growth has also been seen at Berkeley Primary School across all year groups and the school has planning permission for a Section 106 funded building project of a nursery classroom and a main school classroom, which will allow it to increase its PAN by 33 to support local housing growth.

In May 2022 Cam Woodfield School was inspected by Ofsted and achieved an overall 'Good' judgement, with 'Good' in all separate judgement areas. Berkeley Primary School was also inspected by Ofsted in June 2022 and achieved an overall 'Good' judgement, with 'Outstanding' for Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.

Exam results are clearly still affected by Covid and will be for some time as the schools continue to work to close any learning gaps. SATs results at Cam Woodfield Junior School showed expected progress for a cohort with 33% SEN and a significant number of transient children. At Berkeley Primary School, SATs results showed pupils at national average with above average in reading. Callowell Primary School, who joined the Trust in July 2023, showed below average progress in the combined SATs with above average in reading. The results for Marling School were based on exams, the results were strong with 54% of all GCSE grades at 9-7 and 91% at 9-5 At A Level, 32% A*-A grades, 60% A*-B grades and 82% A*-C.

To ensure that standards are continually assessed, the Trust operates a programme of monitoring activities as part of performance appraisal (PA) and oversight and uses a team of school improvement consultants to work with the CEO to provide support and challenge to the schools. Additionally, there are many peer observations that take place to support staff professional development.

Continued professional development of staff remains an important part of the Trust's work and there is increasing requests for support for other schools. Marling School leads the Cotswold Edge Teaching Alliance (CETA) which comprises five secondary schools, twelve primary schools and the Universities of Bristol and Bath Spa. CETA is a strategic partner in the two Teaching School Hubs that operate within Gloucestershire.

The Trust is exploring a number of routes to expansion. CBAT has been approved by the Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust (DGAT) for the future sponsorship of Church of England Schools and is working with the Local Authority and the Regional Directors Office to explore growth opportunities.

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

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Key performance indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention, 100% of GAG allocation was spent.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is also a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2022/23 were 1622 (which is a slight increase on the previous year) plus Callowell Primary School.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of GAG. For 2023 this was 97%, compared to 98% in 2022.

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

The Trust supports each Academy working with their Parent Staff Association (PSA) to undertake fundraising in their local community and within their parental body. The Trust did not work with any commercial or professional fundraisers in 2022/23. The Trust Finance Team monitor any expenditure of the PSAs to ensure they conform to recognised standards and Trust Finance Policies. There were no complaints in the year.

Financial review

a. Going concern

Trustees regularly review management information, performance to budget and value for money and have identified no actions in the year that would result in a risk to cash flow or a potential unexpected overspend. Trustees monitor benchmarking against other like schools using the Schools Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool and other local benchmarking tools to ensure best value. They also regularly review the Balance Sheet, funds available and are informed of fixed asset and capital purchasing.

Trustees are in the process of building back Trust reserves in line with the Reserves Policy after 2021/22 reduction in reserves due to increasing student numbers and lagged funding.

The Trust has three schools which individually are in a deficit fund position at 31 August 2023, but plans are in place to rectify this during 2023 - 24. This is not deemed to be of impact to the Trusts ability to continue as a going concern as there are sufficient unrestricted funds available.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue 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 accounting policies.

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

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have previously determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves should be approximately £200,000 to £300,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust is in a very strong cash flow position but recognises that the current level of free reserves is lower than appropriate and the intention is to continue build these reserves up steadily over the next 2 years. The Trust's current level of reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £243,341.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a net positive balance. The effect of the surplus position of the pension scheme is that the Trust does not recognise it within the accounts. Employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. The Trust recognises that this surplus balance will be revalued in future years and whilst any future deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

c. Material investments policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect. Where cash flow allows, sums in excess of £100,000 may be invested on deposit for extended periods.

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

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Financial

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the EFSA. In the last year 93% of the Trust's incoming resources was ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms. Additionally, while the Local Authority remain in control of distribution of academy funds, there is a high risk that the academies will not receive the minimum per pupil funding set out in the national funding formula and this will result in uncertainty and turbulence with budgeting.

Whilst the Trust Academies have strong levels of pupil admissions, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small. However, the reduction in post 16 funding levels, lack of local implementation of the NFF minimum per pupil funding levels, unfunded staff pay rises, increased NI and pension contributions and increasing premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years. The Trust is also adversely affected by being situated in one of the lowest funded education authorities which continues to affect its GAG funding.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in note 27 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

Failures in governance and/or management

The risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational

The ongoing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

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

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust has appointed an Internal Assurance Partner to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

Estates

The Trust estates comprises of school buildings of a variety of ages which it works to ensure are safe, well maintained and compliant. In 2023 Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) was identified in the roof of two DT Classrooms at Marling School and they were closed. The Academy has been working with the Department of Education to install two temporary classrooms until the building can be re-roofed. In 2023 the Trust commissioned a full condition survey of its estate in order to inform a maintenance and improvement strategy.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register and plan are constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Board meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

Trustees consider the following key measures to be strong within their review of Value, Risk and Effectiveness;

- Robust financial governance, budget management and management information reporting.
- Considering allocation, targeting and use, including sharing, of resources.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risks
- Engagement of the internal auditor
- Engagement of the external auditor
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process
- The work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

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

e. Financial review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the EFSA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE and these are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

Trustees have adopted an Internal Assurance Policy and appointed a suitably qualified governor from Marling School SDB to undertake a programme of internal assurance checks on financial controls. During the year, the Trustees received Internal Assurance reports which contained no matters of significance.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £9,897,253 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources of £9,783,632. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £113,621.

At 31 August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £18,659,087 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Trust Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Trust deed. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust (CBAT) are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust.

Schools in the Trust are known as;

- Marling School
- Berkeley Primary School
- Cam Woodfield Junior School
- Callowell Primary School

Details of the Trustees who served throughout year and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details on page 1.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Strategic report (continued)

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Academy is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

On 1 September 2016 the Members appointed Trustees serving as Directors and Governors from both schools on a skills-based basis. These Trustees were appointed on a term of office that would end when their original term at the predecessor school would have ended, thus ensuring a staggered re-election or replacement process.

The Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- Up to 10 Trustees who are appointed by Members
- The Chief Executive Officer
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees who are elected by parents of registered pupils at an Academy, in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on an established Local Governing Body

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustees can be reappointed or re-elected. When appointing new Trustees, the Board will consider the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

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

Strategic report (continued)

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each (short) term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academies and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees and other groups. Each Academy has a School Development Board, a committee of Governors reporting to the Trust Board. The Trust receives reports from SDBs and monitors their activities through the minutes of their meetings. The Trust Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There is one committee - the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. This meets at least four times a year and is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Providing oversight on internal controls and monitor financial performance of the Trust and ensure its money is well spent
- Ensuring that risks are being addressed appropriately through internal scrutiny
- Advising the Board on the effectiveness of the Trust's risk management, control and governance processes and any significant matters arising from audits.

The Trust Board currently covers all other aspects of the Trust business.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees; to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academies and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to appoint the Headteachers of the Academies and the Clerk to the Trustees. The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a strategic plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academies by the use of budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff structures.

The Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Academies to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of each Academy via a Scheme Of Delegation. The SLT comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and the Operations Manager in the Secondary School; and Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Operations Manager in the Primary Schools. SLT's and SDBs implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance. The Headteacher of each Academy is responsible for the appointment of staff in their Academy. Appointment panels for teaching posts of Head of Department and above include a governor and for a member of SLT they include the CEO or CFOO.

The CEO retired on 30 April 2023 and a new CEO, Mrs Kim Wilson, was appointed from 1 May 2023.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

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

Strategic report (continued)

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies. These have been brought together into an induction pack for new Trustees, together with links to external information including the DfE guidance and resources on multi academy trusts, and the National Governance Association support and advice for newly appointed Trustees. New Trustees are invited to visit the academies and meet key personnel including the CEO, CFOO, Headteachers, and Chairs of School Development Boards (SDBs).

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior leadership team comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year

Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Trustees determine the annual pay award for teachers and support staff, and the pay range for headteachers, being advised by the CEO and CFOO. Trustees determine pay progression for the Executive Team. The CEO determines pay progression for headteachers, working with the School Development Boards, and Headteachers determine progression for academy staff.

f. Trade Union Facility Time

Facility Time is the provision of paid or unpaid time off from an employee's normal role to undertake trade union duties and activities as a trade union representative. Under the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, the Trust as a relevant public sector employer is now required to collect and publish, on an annual basis, a range of data in relation to their employees who are trade union representatives.

In 2022-23 the Trust had one employee (2022: one employee) who is a trade union representative who spent between 1%-10% of their time on trade union activities. The total cost of facility time was £2,326 (2022: £3,854), 0.03% (2022: 0.05%) of the Trust's total pay bill.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Strategic report (continued)

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Related party relationships

The Stroud and Rodborough Educational Charity (SREC) is a related party as landowner of some of the land and buildings on the Marling School site. Gloucestershire County Council owns the land at Berkeley Primary School and Callowell Primary School. Marling School shares a joint freehold with Stroud High School for Girls for the Sixth Form Downfield Road block, and allows the shared use of two buildings (Biology and Music) on Marling School freehold land and one building (D&T) on SREC leased land.

Marling School is supported by the Marling School Parent Staff Association. Berkeley Primary School is supported by Berkeley Primary School Parent Teachers Association. Cam Woodfield Junior School is supported by a Parent Teachers Association that also supports the Infant School (not part of the Trust). Callowell Primary School is supported by the Callowell Parent, Staff and Friends Association.

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust. In 2022 Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust agreed minority articles with the Diocese of Gloucester in order that Voluntary Aided schools may join the Trust. The first CofE School is expected to join the Trust in April 2024 and the Articles of Association will be amended formally at this time.

h. Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Academy, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

i. Trustees' indemnities

Trustees benefit from membership of the Government's Risk Protection Arrangement, indemnity purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees. This is by virtue of any rule of law which would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not, and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10 million.

j. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union officials
- Having staff representatives on the School Development Boards
- Regular updates to all staff members

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

Strategic report (continued)

Plans for future periods

The Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels. The Trust will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

The Trust will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community.

Following necessary works to improve facilities over the last 2 years, the Board of Trustees have plans to build reserves back to a standard in which to utilise any future surplus towards improving the Marling School East Campus building for the use of Sixth Form Study Areas.

Berkeley Primary School is in receipt of £600,000 of Section 106 funding (held by the Local Authority) which will be used to build a single classroom for the main school and a single classroom for the nursery school. This project is due for completion in August 2025.

Funds held as custodian

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

Members' liability

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

Engagement with employees and employment of the disabled

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The Academy carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Trustees.

The Academy has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Volunteers' policy
- Health & safety policy

In accordance with the Academy's equal opportunities policy, the Academy has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Full details of these policies are available from the Academy's offices.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Disclosure of information to auditor


Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditor, Crowe U.K. LLP, has indicated his willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditor at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 18 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Riglar', is written over a horizontal line.

N Riglar
(Chair of Trustees)

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
N Riglar, Chair	6	6
J Gilbert, Vice Chair	5	6
G Ayre	0	2
B Green	0	5
J L Exworthy	4	4
R Hollier	4	6
J Taylor	6	6
N Wadley	2	2
K L Wilson, Chief Executive	4	4
S Wilson	4	4

The Trustees are highly aspirational, and recognise that setting for and delivering against the highest aspirations can only be possible when schools are founded on a solid bedrock of statutory and regulatory organisation. To that end, they have outstanding policies, processes and systems in place to ensure safeguarding, to prevent any form of discrimination, and to ensure each pupil receives the individual support and assistance necessary to fulfil their full potential.

Trustees are clear on their responsibility to ensure the Academies deliver the very best opportunity for all students, regardless of extraneous factors. Whilst the 'pupil premium' is currently only applicable to a small cohort in the Academies, they are committed to ensuring that this is directly targeted at resolving those particular students individual vulnerabilities in as discrete and sensitive manner as possible. The outcomes for all at the Academies are closely aligned and Trustees routinely express their determination to close down what few gaps emerge.

Induction and training for new Trustees is encouraged and readily available. Trustees carry out self-assessments on themselves and the School Development Board to ensure ongoing effectiveness and so that skills gaps can be targeted in governance recruitment.

As part of an ongoing programme of self-assessment, Trustees have commissioned a review of Governance to take place in January 2024. This will include a governance skills inventory and a review of governance processes in the Trust.

The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to scrutinise the management information and report back to the Trust Board.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Gilbert	4	4
J L Exworthy	2	2
S Wilson	3	3
K L Wilson	1	1
R Jenkins (Co-opted)	2	2

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

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

Improving Educational Results

Staff at the Trust have worked hard to ensure that the quality of education is effective for all students. There is a strong system in place for tracking student progress and achievement coupled with a programme of early and appropriate intervention. We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed to meet education requirements and raise individual levels of attainment and progress including suitable intervention strategies.

The Trust deploys equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff with resources that support the quality of teaching and learning and provide an educational environment that promotes learning and recreation.

Financial Governance

The Trust closely follows its Finance Policy guidelines on achieving best value (available on the Trust website). Governors and Trustees apply the four principles of best value; challenge, comparison, consultation and competition, in their review of the Trust expenditure.

Trustees, Governors and key financial employees complete an annual declaration of interests to avoid conflicts of interest, and finance staff follow policies to ensure separation of duties.

Budget holders are responsible for ensuring value for money within their area of responsibility. Annual budgets are based on a review of previous year's expenditure and department requests which are also reviewed to ensure these meet the needs of the Trust and its students.

Income generation

The Trust continues to generate income from letting out the school premises and we believe the community, as well as our students, benefits from the wide range of activities that can be offered via external providers. Lettings income provides a valuable source of income that is used primarily to maintain the premises but also to support the Trust's academic activities.

Estate maintenance

In 2023, the Trust was unsuccessful in its bids for funding from the DfE Condition Improvement Fund. The Trust works to ensure the resources, staffing and support is available to maintain its schools, ensuring they are safe, effective learning environments. The Trust uses Devolved Formula Capital funding and revenue funding to maintain its estates and ensure compliance with Health & Safety regulations.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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 Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework

The 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 Finance and General Purposes Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ an ACCA qualified Governor of Marling School to carry out the role as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. The internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work, following the internal auditor checklist in two detailed reviews of the financial processes during the year to 31 August 2023, including:

- Supporting the implementation of the new financial software
- Working with the Trust Finance Team and the School Resource Management Advisor to review budgets, the reserves position and financial health of the Trust
- Supporting the CFOO and Finance Team in Informing the work of the School Resource Management Adviser

On a quarterly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the internal auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

No material control issues have been identified. The IA is also available to give advice throughout the period. The IA reports to the Trust Board via the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)


Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



N Riglar
Chair of Trustees



K L Wilson
Accounting Officer

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

The accounting officer of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust prior to 1 May 2023 was S Wilson. At the date of resignation, an interim statement of regularity, propriety and compliance was signed. This acknowledges that prior to 1 May 2023, S Wilson was responsible for the public funds under their control and confirms that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance had been discovered to that date.

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



K L Wilson
Accounting Officer
Date: 18 January 2024

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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:

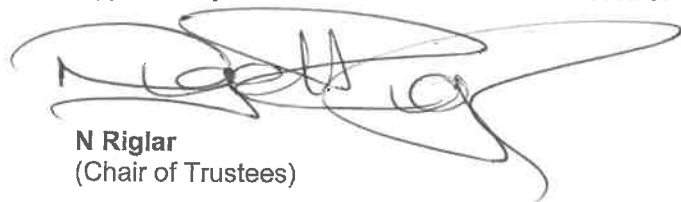
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



N Riglar
(Chair of Trustees)

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST**

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Use of our report

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



Helen Blundell (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Black Country House

Rounds Green Road

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2DG

Date: 19 January 2024

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 September 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the Academy Trust's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the Academy Trust and specific transactions identified from our review.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO COTSWOLD
BEACON ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

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

Crowe UK LLP

Reporting Accountant
Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Date: 19 January 2024

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfer on conversion		-	(166,000)	1,250,000	1,084,000	-
Other donations and capital grants		7,569	14,586	354,610	376,765	534,563
Other trading activities	5	65,784	10,997	-	76,781	54,349
Investments		982	-	-	982	-
Charitable activities	4	630,719	9,218,995	-	9,849,714	8,738,865
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	52,250
Total income		705,054	9,078,578	1,604,610	11,388,242	9,380,027
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7,8	414,920	9,482,333	1,902,151	11,799,404	9,878,470
Total expenditure		414,920	9,482,333	1,902,151	11,799,404	9,878,470
Net income/(expenditure)		290,134	(403,755)	(297,541)	(411,162)	(498,443)
Transfers between funds	18	(121,072)	197,755	(76,683)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		169,062	(206,000)	(374,224)	(411,162)	(498,443)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	698,000	-	698,000	-
Derecognition of pension surplus	27	-	(50,000)	-	(50,000)	-
Net movement in funds		169,062	442,000	(374,224)	236,838	(498,443)

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	74,279	(442,000)	19,036,935	18,669,214	19,167,657
Net movement in funds	169,062	442,000	(374,224)	236,838	(498,443)
Total funds carried forward	243,341	-	18,662,711	18,906,052	18,669,214

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

The notes on pages 38 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07692339

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	18,659,087	<i>18,957,737</i>
		<u>18,659,087</u>	<u>18,957,737</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	273,394	<i>785,521</i>
Cash at bank and in hand		716,565	<i>455,421</i>
		<u>989,959</u>	<u>1,240,942</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(608,418)	<i>(919,403)</i>
Net current assets		381,541	<i>321,539</i>
Total assets less current liabilities		19,040,628	<i>19,279,276</i>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(134,576)	<i>(168,062)</i>
Net assets excluding pension liability		18,906,052	<i>19,111,214</i>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	-	<i>(442,000)</i>
Total net assets		18,906,052	<i>18,669,214</i>

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07692339

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	18,662,711	19,036,935
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	18,662,711	19,036,935
Pension reserve	18	-	(442,000)
Total restricted funds	18	18,662,711	18,594,935
Unrestricted income funds	18	243,341	74,279
Total funds		18,906,052	18,669,214

The financial statements on pages 33 to 74 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



N Riglar
 (Chair of Trustees)

Date: 18 January 2024.

The notes on pages 38 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	295,817	322,499
Cash flows from investing activities	22	1,109	(566,958)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(35,782)	(2,838)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		261,144	(247,297)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		455,421	702,718
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	716,565	455,421
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 38 to 74 form part of these financial statements

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Agency arrangements

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and balances held at the year end are disclosed in Note 31.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **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.

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. Freehold land is not depreciated.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Long-term leasehold property	- 50 - 125 years
Plant and machinery	- 25%
Motor vehicles	- 25%
Fixtures and fittings	- 15% - 25%
Computer equipment	- 15% - 25%

1.7 Debtors

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

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Liabilities

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

1.10 Pensions

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

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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

Where a scheme is in a surplus according to the accounting valuation the associated asset has not been recognised on the basis that it is not likely to be recoverable either through future reductions in contributions rates or future repayments. Further details of pension assets not recognised can be found with the pensions note to the financial statements.

Land and building valuations

On conversion to an Academy in 2011 Marling School land and buildings were transferred from the Local Authority using an estimated value from the ESFA. The value of land and buildings for Berkeley Primary School and Cam Woodfield Junior School were also transferred at estimated values in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

The ESFA has since carried out desktop valuations on Marling School and Cam Woodfield Junior School with the valuation for Cam Woodfield Junior indicating a significant reduction in valuation.

The desktop valuations have been reviewed for consistency. The valuations suggest a consistent per hectare value being used for both Marling School and Cam Woodfield Junior School, with the buildings being deemed to be of a similar condition and age. Given the consistency in the valuations, an impairment charge for Cam Woodfield Junior School has been recognised in the 2023 financial statements.

With a revised value per hectare, the value of the land and buildings at Callowell Primary School (transferred into the Trust on 1 July 2023) have been estimated based on this revised valuation on the assumption that the condition of the buildings is similar to those already included in the Trust.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	7,569	14,586	-	22,155
Transferred on conversion	-	(166,000)	1,250,000	1,084,000
Capital grants	-	-	354,610	354,610
	<u>7,569</u>	<u>(151,414)</u>	<u>1,604,610</u>	<u>1,460,765</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	1,123	15,147	-	16,270
Grants	-	-	518,293	518,293
	<u>1,123</u>	<u>15,147</u>	<u>518,293</u>	<u>534,563</u>

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General annual grant	-	8,237,067	8,237,067
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	120,883	120,883
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	22,430	22,430
High Needs Funding	-	179,412	179,412
Supplementary and Mainstream School Additional Grants	-	249,568	249,568
Rates Relief	-	31,267	31,267
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	134,126	134,126
PE Grant	-	35,300	35,300
	-	9,010,053	9,010,053
Other Government grants			
Other Government grants	-	142,169	142,169
	-	142,169	142,169
Other income from the Academy's educational operations	630,719	66,773	697,492
	630,719	9,218,995	9,849,714
	630,719	9,218,995	9,849,714

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General annual grant	-	7,617,539	7,617,539
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	127,401	127,401
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	90,703	90,703
Teachers Pay Grant	-	116,511	116,511
High Needs Funding	-	131,717	131,717
Others	-	65,095	65,095
Rates Relief	-	29,939	29,939
Matrix led funding - day school	-	555	555
	-	8,179,460	8,179,460
Other Government grants			
Other Government Grants	-	98,180	98,180
	-	98,180	98,180
Other income from the Academy's educational operations	438,568	22,657	461,225
	<u>438,568</u>	<u>8,300,297</u>	<u>8,738,865</u>
	<u>438,568</u>	<u>8,300,297</u>	<u>8,738,865</u>

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Lettings Income	31,668	-	31,668
Catering Income	33,161	-	33,161
Other Income	955	10,997	11,952
	65,784	10,997	76,781
	65,784	10,997	76,781
		<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Lettings Income		23,962	23,962
Other Income		30,387	30,387
		54,349	54,349
		54,349	54,349

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	5,574,392	1,744,481	980,049	8,298,922
Allocated support costs	2,413,430	551,142	535,910	3,500,482
	<u>7,987,822</u>	<u>2,295,623</u>	<u>1,515,959</u>	<u>11,799,404</u>
	<i>Staff Costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Premises 2022 £</i>	<i>Other 2022 £</i>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	5,510,787	400,138	847,606	6,758,531
Allocated support costs	2,011,789	618,727	489,423	3,119,939
	<u>7,522,576</u>	<u>1,018,865</u>	<u>1,337,029</u>	<u>9,878,470</u>

Premises costs have increased due to the recognition of an impairment charge of £1,291,633 relating to the Trust's buildings and premises.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational operations	414,920	11,384,484	11,799,404

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Educational operations	263,112	9,615,358	9,878,470

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational operations	8,298,922	3,500,482	11,799,404

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Educational operations	6,758,531	3,119,939	9,878,470

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Educational operations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	5,574,392	5,574,392
Depreciation & impairment charges	1,744,481	1,744,481
Staff expenses	5,684	5,684
Other staff costs	61,749	61,749
Educational supplies	168,804	168,804
Exam fees	185,201	185,201
Technology costs	158,218	158,218
Other costs	72,076	72,076
School trip costs	328,317	328,317
	<u>8,298,922</u>	<u>8,298,922</u>
	<i>Educational operations 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	5,510,787	5,510,787
Depreciation	400,138	400,138
Staff expenses	2,826	2,826
Other staff costs	78,217	78,217
Educational supplies	156,404	156,404
Exam fees	235,034	235,034
Technology costs	123,558	123,558
Educational consultancy	8,301	8,301
Other costs	34,566	34,566
School trip costs	208,700	208,700
	<u>6,758,531</u>	<u>6,758,531</u>

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	2,413,430	2,413,430
Depreciation	157,670	157,670
Other costs	390,927	390,927
Premises expenses	393,472	393,472
Legal and professional - outsourced services, accountancy and audit	127,575	127,575
Governance	17,408	17,408
	3,500,482	3,500,482
	3,500,482	3,500,482
	<i>Educational operations 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	2,011,789	2,011,789
Depreciation	156,349	156,349
Other costs	454,730	454,730
Premises expenses	462,378	462,378
Legal and professional - outsourced services, accountancy and audit	28,194	28,194
Governance	6,499	6,499
	3,119,939	3,119,939
	3,119,939	3,119,939

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. Net expenditure

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	17,032	8,476
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	610,518	556,487
Impairment charge	1,291,633	-
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	14,500	14,900
- other services	5,050	3,886
	=====	=====

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	5,839,030	5,168,580
Social security costs	560,841	492,988
Pension costs	1,373,580	1,699,352
	<u>7,773,451</u>	<u>7,360,920</u>
Agency staff costs	200,371	161,656
Staff restructuring costs	14,000	-
	<u>7,987,822</u>	<u>7,522,576</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Severance payments	14,000	-
	<u>14,000</u>	<u>-</u>

b. Severance payments

The Academy paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2023 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u>1</u>

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Management	14	<i>10</i>
Teachers	93	<i>90</i>
Support	136	<i>129</i>
	243	<i>229</i>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	5	<i>4</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	<i>1</i>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	<i>1</i>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £1,227,274 (2022 - £240,416).

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11. Central services

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

- Financial services;
- Human resources;
- Strategic management staff salaries;
- Legal, audit and governance;
- School improvement planning; and
- Brand development, website and prospectus production.

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

5% of GAG funding

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Marling School	317,545	298,496
Berkeley Primary School	39,300	38,406
Cam Woodfield Junior School	40,416	41,380
Callowell Primary School	6,172	-
Total	403,433	378,282

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023	2022
		£	£
S Wilson	Remuneration	85,000 - 90,000	<i>110,000 - 115,000</i>
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	<i>25,000 - 30,000</i>
K Wilson	Remuneration	45,000 - 50,000	<i>Nil</i>
	Pension contributions paid	10,000 - 15,000	<i>Nil</i>

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustees (2022 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

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

13. 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 £5,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 September 2022	8,021,583	13,822,899	243,217	9,827	5,881	893,000	22,996,407
Additions	68,689	-	259,227	-	-	25,585	353,501
Transfers intra group	-	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000
Disposals	-	-	-	(4,027)	-	-	(4,027)
Impairment	(1,291,633)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,291,633)
At 31 August 2023	<u>6,798,639</u>	<u>15,072,899</u>	<u>502,444</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,881</u>	<u>918,585</u>	<u>23,304,248</u>
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2022	708,205	2,481,530	116,732	4,361	-	727,842	4,038,670
Charge for the year	147,377	305,471	53,577	1,450	-	102,643	610,518
On disposals	-	-	-	(4,027)	-	-	(4,027)
At 31 August 2023	<u>855,582</u>	<u>2,787,001</u>	<u>170,309</u>	<u>1,784</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>830,485</u>	<u>4,645,161</u>

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

14. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Net book value							
At 31 August 2023	5,943,057	12,285,898	332,135	4,016	5,881	88,100	18,659,087
At 31 August 2022	7,313,378	11,341,369	126,485	5,466	5,881	165,158	18,957,737

Included in freehold land and buildings is freehold land at valuation of £1,142,888 (2022: £1,193,486, restated) which is not depreciated.

The trust leases the land it occupies from Gloucestershire County Council on long leases of 125 years. The land associated with this lease has been accounted for on the same basis as the other long term leases in order to properly reflect the substance of the arrangement.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	251	9,124
Other debtors	40,057	149,860
Prepayments and accrued income	233,086	626,537
	273,394	785,521
	273,394	785,521

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
ESFA loans	38,730	41,026
Trade creditors	129,236	351,936
Other taxation and social security	136,304	115,843
Other creditors	205,719	172,957
Accruals and deferred income	98,429	237,641
	608,418	919,403
	608,418	919,403

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	15,365	24,377
Resources deferred during the year	35,459	15,365
Amounts released from previous periods	(15,365)	(24,377)
	35,459	15,365
	35,459	15,365

At the balance sheet date, the Trust was holding funds received in advance for trips booked for the 2023/24 academic year and ESFA grants received in advance.

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

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
ESFA loans	134,576	<i>168,062</i>

ESFA loans consist of Salix and Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) loans.

All Salix loans are interest free and repayable over 6-8 years from the date of issue. At the year end the Trust owed £138,781 (*2022: £139,457*) in relation to Salix loans.

All CIF loans are interest free and repayable in instalments over 8 - 10 years from the date of issue. At the year end the Trust owed £34,155 (*2022: £69,631*) in relation to CIF loans.

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

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	74,279	705,054	(414,920)	(121,072)	-	243,341
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,237,067	(8,434,822)	197,755	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	120,883	(120,883)	-	-	-
Higher Needs Income	-	179,412	(179,412)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	234,525	(234,525)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	31,267	(31,267)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meal	-	22,430	(22,430)	-	-	-
PE Grant	-	35,300	(35,300)	-	-	-
Supplementary & Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	249,568	(249,568)	-	-	-
Teaching School Income	-	134,126	(134,126)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(442,000)	(166,000)	(40,000)	-	648,000	-
	(442,000)	9,078,578	(9,482,333)	197,755	648,000	-

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds

Tangible Fixed Assets	18,957,737	-	(1,902,151)	1,603,501	-	18,659,087
Transferred in	-	1,250,000	-	(1,250,000)	-	-
DfE/ESFA Capital grants	79,198	354,610	-	(430,184)	-	3,624
	<u>19,036,935</u>	<u>1,604,610</u>	<u>(1,902,151)</u>	<u>(76,683)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,662,711</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>18,594,935</u>	<u>10,683,188</u>	<u>(11,384,484)</u>	<u>121,072</u>	<u>648,000</u>	<u>18,662,711</u>
Total funds	<u>18,669,214</u>	<u>11,388,242</u>	<u>(11,799,404)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>648,000</u>	<u>18,906,052</u>

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

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents funding received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) during the period in order to fund the continuing activities of the school.

Pupil Premium funding represents amounts received from the ESFA to cater for disadvantaged pupils.

Other DfE/ESFA grants represents amounts received for PE and sports grant, universal infants free school meals funding and rates relief provided by the ESFA to cover the cost of increasing sporting activity, providing free school meals to all pupils from reception to year 2, and non-domestic rates for the period.

Local authority grants represents funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

Other restricted funds represents restricted donations received from charitable bodies and parents.

The pension reserve represents the Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy. The Trust is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets transferred on conversion represent the building and equipment donated to the school from Gloucestershire County Council on conversion to an Academy.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represents devolved capital funding received for the period, and Conditional Improvement Funding received for direct expenditure on capital projects.

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18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	104,941	216,188	(246,850)	-	-	74,279
Unrestricted fixed assets	54,802	-	(54,802)	-	-	-
	<u>159,743</u>	<u>216,188</u>	<u>(301,652)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,279</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	39,113	7,617,539	(7,481,707)	(174,945)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	127,401	(127,401)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	28,484	240,778	(269,262)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	131,717	(131,717)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	6,935	375,463	(382,398)	-	-	-
Teachers pay and pension	-	116,511	(116,511)	-	-	-
COVID funding	-	36,137	(36,137)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,065,000)	-	(530,000)	-	3,153,000	(442,000)
	<u>(2,990,468)</u>	<u>8,645,546</u>	<u>(9,075,133)</u>	<u>(174,945)</u>	<u>3,153,000</u>	<u>(442,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Tangible Fixed Assets	18,456,568	-	(501,685)	1,002,854	-	18,957,737
DfE/ESFA Capital grants	388,814	508,813	-	(818,429)	-	79,198

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
S106 monies	-	9,480	-	(9,480)	-	-
	<u>18,845,382</u>	<u>518,293</u>	<u>(501,685)</u>	<u>174,945</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,036,935</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>15,854,914</u>	<u>9,163,839</u>	<u>(9,576,818)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,153,000</u>	<u>18,594,935</u>
Total funds	<u><u>16,014,657</u></u>	<u><u>9,380,027</u></u>	<u><u>(9,878,470)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,153,000</u></u>	<u><u>18,669,214</u></u>

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Marling School	503,588	227,468
Berkeley Primary School	(172,099)	(84,976)
Cam Woodfield Junior School	(147,725)	(90,174)
Callowell Primary School	(4,334)	-
Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust	63,911	21,961
	<u>243,341</u>	<u>74,279</u>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	243,341	74,279
Restricted fixed asset fund	18,662,711	19,036,935
Pension reserve	-	(442,000)
Total	<u><u>18,906,052</u></u>	<u><u>18,669,214</u></u>

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £
Berkeley Primary School	(172,099)
Cam Woodfield Junior School	(147,725)
Callowell Primary School	(4,334)
	<hr/> <hr/>

Berkeley Primary School and Cam Woodfield Junior School funds remain in deficit, with Callowell generating a small deficit since becoming part of the Trust.

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

Funding for the primary school sector, including schools in the Trust, has been a challenge in the year. Both Berkeley Primary School and Cam Woodfield Junior School have grown recently with a significant number of children with Special Educational Needs, and traveller children entering the Trust primary schools. These children require specific resources in staffing and equipment and additional funding has not been received as expected.

In addition, staff sickness absence continues to present a challenge to the primary school sector, increasing the cost of supply staff for both teachers and teacher assistants. Recruitment is also challenging in a rural community and supply staff are often needed to fill vacancies while the school continues to advertise vacant posts.

Both Berkeley Primary School and Cam Woodfield Junior School are working with the Trust on a 3-year plan to reduce their fund deficits and plan to make significant reductions to their deficits in 2023-24.

At the time of transferring into the Trust Callowell Primary School was holding a bank surplus of £56,312. The financial transfer is currently being finalised with Gloucestershire County County but the Trust expects to receive funds for the Transfer which would cover the initial deficit created since joining the Trust.

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £
Marling School	4,564,955	1,049,415	298,874	1,023,326	6,936,570
Berkeley Primary School	753,880	246,610	16,360	149,147	1,165,997
Cam Woodfield Junior School	790,720	135,138	34,185	170,030	1,130,073
Callowell Primary School	102,422	21,747	1,753	6,048	131,970
Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust	218,091	71,242	439	194,081	483,853
Academy	6,430,068	1,524,152	351,611	1,542,632	9,848,463

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

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</i>	<i>Other support staff costs £</i>	<i>Educational supplies £</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation £</i>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Marling School	4,216,465	1,078,862	169,819	1,072,936	6,538,082
Berkeley Primary School	885,061	218,862	21,666	169,207	1,294,796
Cam Woodfield Junior School	826,193	117,969	28,205	148,767	1,121,134
Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust	63,659	124,150	2,553	177,609	367,971
Academy	5,991,378	1,539,843	222,243	1,568,519	9,321,983

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	18,659,087	18,659,087
Current assets	243,341	742,994	3,624	989,959
Creditors due within one year	-	(608,418)	-	(608,418)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(134,576)	-	(134,576)
Total	243,341	-	18,662,711	18,906,052

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	18,957,737	18,957,737
Current assets	283,367	720,129	237,446	1,240,942
Creditors due within one year	(41,026)	(720,129)	(158,248)	(919,403)
Creditors due in more than one year	(168,062)	-	-	(168,062)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(442,000)	-	(442,000)
Total	74,279	(442,000)	19,036,935	18,669,214

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

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(411,162)	(498,443)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	610,518	556,487
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(354,610)	(518,293)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	19,000	475,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	21,000	55,000
Decrease in debtors	512,127	53,981
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(308,689)	198,767
Donation on conversion	(1,084,000)	-
Impairment of property	1,291,633	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	295,817	322,499

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	36,182
Repayments of borrowing	(35,782)	(39,020)
Net cash used in financing activities	(35,782)	(2,838)

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(353,501)	(893,687)
Capital grants from DfE Group	354,610	326,729
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	1,109	(566,958)

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

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	716,565	455,421
Total cash and cash equivalents	716,565	455,421

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	455,421	261,144	-	716,565
Debt due within 1 year	(41,026)	35,782	(33,486)	(38,730)
Debt due after 1 year	(168,062)	-	33,486	(134,576)
	246,333	296,926	-	543,259

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

25. Conversion to an academy trust

On 1 July 2023 Callowell Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust from Gloucestershire County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets		
Freehold land and buildings	1,250,000	1,250,000
Non-current liabilities		
Local Government Pension Scheme	(166,000)	(166,000)
Net assets	<u>1,084,000</u>	<u>1,084,000</u>

26. Contingent assets

In the prior year the Local Authority allocated £539,703 in Section 106 funds for the Trust to use in relation to capital works to extend, remodel, upgrade and improve the capacity and suitability of Berkeley Primary School. The Trust is only entitled to the funds once the expense has been incurred. There have been no costs incurred for the current year against S106 funds with work expected to start on the buildings in January 2025.

At the time of transferring into the Trust Callowell Primary School was holding a bank surplus of £56,312. The financial transfer is currently being finalised with Gloucestershire County County but the Trust expects to receive funds for the Transfer in addition to those disclosed in Note 25.

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

27. Pension commitments

The Academy operates a defined benefit pension scheme.

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022

Contributions amounting to £161,843 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £140,431) and were included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The result of the 31 March 2022 valuation is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 which confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 23.6% to 28.6%. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 28.68%.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £927,424 (2022 - £839,352). A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £540,000 (2022 £470,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £441,000 (2022 - £385,000) and employees' contributions totalled £99,000 (2022 - £85,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.2-28.8 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	%	%
Discount rate	5.20	4.25
Future salary increases	3.48	3.35
Future pension increases	2.98	3.05

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	Years	Years
Mortality rates (in years)		
- for a male aged 65 now	20.7	21.7
- at 65 for a male aged 45 now	20.8	22.6
- for a female aged 65 now	23.3	24.1
- at 65 for a female aged 45 now	25.3	25.8

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	£	£
Equities	3,331,000	2,746,000
Corporate bonds	1,076,000	767,000
Property	615,000	444,000
Cash and other liquid assets	103,000	81,000
Total fair value of assets	5,125,000	<i>4,038,000</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £132,000 (2022 - £218,000).

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	(460,000)	<i>(860,000)</i>
Interest income	184,000	<i>67,000</i>
Interest cost	(205,000)	<i>(122,000)</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(481,000)	<i>(915,000)</i>

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2023
	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	4,480,000
Coverion of academy trusts	463,000
Interest cost	205,000
Current service cost	460,000
Benefits paid	(66,000)
Unfunded pension payments	(566,000)
Employee contributions	99,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	5,075,000

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27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	4,038,000
Conversion of academy trusts	297,000
Interest income	184,000
Actuarial gains	132,000
Contributions by employer	441,000
Employee contributions	99,000
Benefits paid	(66,000)
Derecognition of surplus	(50,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	5,075,000

28. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	3,352	17,510
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	4,022
	3,352	21,532

29. Members' liability

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

COTSWOLD BEACON ACADEMY TRUST
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30. Related party transactions

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

During the year to 31 August 2023, services totalling £7,352 (2022: £Nil) was paid to South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. D. Hagg (Member) is Chair of the Board of this entity. The amount owing at year end was £nil.

31. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust received £17,968 and disbursed £9,110 from the fund.

An amount of £41,304 (2022: £32,446) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.