

Company Registration No. 07393519 (England and Wales)

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Governors' report	3 - 11
Governance statement	12 - 16
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of Governors' responsibilities	18
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	19 – 21
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	22 - 23
Statement of financial activities	24 - 25
Balance sheet	26
Cash flow statement	27
Notes to the accounts	28- 46

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governors (Trustees and Directors)

Dr M Airey (Head Teacher) *
Mr N Allen *
Mr I Barnett * (Co Vice Chairman, re-elected 21/11/2023)
Mr P Cook *
Ms S Croot (re-elected 12/03/2024)
Mrs J Hewitt * (Co Vice Chairman, re-elected 21/11/2023, resigned 12/06/2024)
Mr P Matharu (resigned 01/09/2023)
Ms S Mitchell (re-elected 12/03/2024)
Mrs K Morris
Ms C Sheppard
Mr M Slater *
Dr K Telford
Mrs E Thornton *
Mr J Tuck
Mr A Twedde *
Mr R Voyce
Mr D Wilcox * (Chairman, re-elected 21/11/2023)

* members of the Finance Committee

Members

Mr I Barnett
Mrs J Hewitt (re-elected 12/03/2024, resigned 12/06/2024)
Ms S Mitchell (appointed as Trust Member 18/06/2024)
Mrs K Morris (re-elected 12/03/2024)
Mr R Voyce (re-elected 12/03/2024)
Mr D Wilcox (re-elected 12/03/2024)

Senior Leadership Team

- Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Business Manager

Dr M Airey
Ms C Wilson-Hooper
Mr J Eynon
Mr C Beer

Company Registration Number

07393519 (England and Wales)

Registered Office

Lovibonds Avenue
Orpington
Kent BR6 8ER

Independent Auditor

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent BR6 8QE

Bankers

Barclays Bank
167 High Street
Bromley
Kent BR1 1NJ

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Surveyors

Baily Garner LLP
Head Office
146-148 Eltham Hill
Eltham
London SE9 5DY

Solicitor

Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham NG2 1BJ

Internal Scrutiny Advisor

Juniper Education
Head Office
Boundary House
4 County Place
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0RE

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governors present their annual report together with the Financial Statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates an Academy for pupils aged 11-18 serving a catchment area in the London Borough of Bromley. It had a roll of 1696, including 388 in the Sixth Form, in the School census, October 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital and it is an exempt charity. The Governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of the charity legislation. Details of the Governors who served during the year, and to the date these Financial Statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. Trustees of the charitable company are nominated by the Trust Members, parents /carers of the students and members of staff. The Articles of Association require the members of the charitable company to appoint five Governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the Academy.

Members' liability

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

Governors' indemnities

No third-party indemnity provisions have been provided to any third parties on behalf of any Governors.

Method of recruitment and appointment of Governors

The number of Governors shall not be less than three (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) and shall not be subject to any maximum. Future Governors shall be appointed, as the case may be, under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Governors, apart from the Head Teacher, are subject to retirement after four years of service but are eligible for re-election at the meeting at which they retire, unless they are appointed by parents, the teaching staff or associate staff.

During the year under review the Governors held three full meetings and one extraordinary meeting, held on the 9th May 2024, to discuss merging with a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). All Governors' meetings were held both in person and online via Microsoft Teams (for any Governors who preferred not to attend in person). The Governors conducted a School visit on the 1st May 2024 to observe teaching and learning in a range of classrooms. Additionally, the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, and link Governors visited on numerous occasions to observe how the School was functioning.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Governors

All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they need to undertake their role as Governors. The Governors attended a half-day training event on the 13th June 2024 and the following topics were covered: safeguarding and mental health, artificial intelligence (risks and benefits to education), Ofsted and MAT updates.

The Governing Body joined the National Governance Association (NGA) on the 1st September 2020. The NGA is a not-for-profit membership organisation for Governors, Trustees and clerks, and offers a range of resources for training and development. It has been decided to continue membership for the period going forward 2024/25.

Organisational structure

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The structure consisted of different levels: the Governors, the Head Teacher and two Deputy Head Teachers, and the Senior Leadership Team, to include Assistant Head Teachers and the Business Manager. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual Development Plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and students' performance information and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Senior Leadership Team contain a Governor. Some spending control is devolved to members of a wider Leadership Team, with limits above which a Senior Leader must countersign.

The Leadership Team includes Assistant Head Teachers, Heads of Faculty, Achievement Coordinators, Heads of Department, the Business Manager, IT and Operations Manager and Site Manager.

The School has no subsidiaries, joint ventures or associations.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is the key management personnel of the Trust. Trustees are also senior management although they receive no pay or other remuneration in respect of their role as Trustees. Where staff Trustees are in place, they receive remuneration for their role as staff and their pay is determined in the same way as applicable to all other staff. Further details of remuneration paid to staff who are Trustees is set out within the notes to the accounts.

The pay of the Head Teacher is set annually by the Salaries Committee, having regards to performance against objectives set the previous year. Pay of other SLT members is also set by the Salaries Committee, again having regard to performance against previously agreed objectives and any recommendations made by the Head Teacher.

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	0.4

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£25,924
Total pay bill	£9,836k
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.263%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours.	0%
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DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no connected organisations. Details of transactions with related parties are disclosed in note 23 to the financial statements.

Equal opportunities policy

The Governors recognise that equal opportunities are integral to good practice within the workplace. The School has established equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued. The School meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Disabled persons

Lifts, ramps and disabled toilets are installed, and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all the main areas of the School and remain a priority as the accommodation is enhanced. The policy of the School is to support recruitment and retention of students and employees with disabilities. The School does this by adapting the physical environment, by making support resources available and through training and career development.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and aims

The mission of the School is to provide the highest quality of teaching and learning. It has four corporate goals:

Customer Goal: To be a School which children and their parents are eager to choose.

Curriculum Goal: To provide all students with the appropriate qualifications, skills and values to equip them for life.

Community Goal: To take pride in the School and feel responsible for its success.

Quality Goal: To strive for the highest possible standards in all aspects of School life.

The School community has agreed values: Respect, Honesty and Responsibility. These permeate the day-to-day work of the School and are reflected within "The Darrick Wood Way" overall ethos of the School.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The School Development Plan identified three objectives for 2023/24 to enable the School to remain ambitious for all its students and in accordance with its corporate goals and values. The objectives were:

1. To ensure the curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.
2. To enable high achievement for all, through developments in reading and evidence informed improvements in teaching and learning.
3. To encourage students to take greater responsibility for themselves, their community and the environment.

Regular and rigorous School self-evaluation both within the School and by the Governing Body is used to ensure that the School continues to provide an excellent standard of education. The School values the views of its students through the operation of its Student Leadership Council and surveys of students and other stakeholders (e.g. staff, parents/carers).

Public benefit

The School aims to advance education in the United Kingdom, for the public benefit. In setting the objectives of the School and planning the associated activities, the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

In the summer of 2024 at GCSE 79% of candidates achieved English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above and 56% achieved these subjects at Grade 5 or above. The Attainment 8 figure increased to 50 and the English Baccalaureate average point score was 4.7. The School continues to enter a high proportion of students for the full range of English Baccalaureate subjects and 76% were entered for these subjects in 2023/24. This is indicative of the School's ambitions for its students and is achieved whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum. Estimates of the Progress 8 figure are that it improved over that of 2023.

At Advanced level, 45% of entries were graded A*, A, or B and 69% were graded A*, A, B or C. The average grade at A level was a C, and 95% of grades were A*- E. The majority of Year 13 students progressed to university, deferred entrance for a year or went on to higher level apprenticeships.

Key performance indicators

Governors set and monitor key financial and other performance indicators to ensure that the School provides effective value for money and that the financial position remains sufficient to fund future needs:

- The allocation of resources continues to promote the aims and values of the School, uphold standards and the quality of provisions to meet the needs of all pupils.
- Total staff costs as a proportion of ESFA revenue income were 87%. Total staff costs were 80% of the total income. Total staff costs were 80% of total expenditure and the proportion of budget spent on the leadership team was 8%. These measures compare favourably when benchmarked against similar schools and the KPIs were reviewed on a monthly basis by Trustees.
- Whilst the School benefits greatly from being staffed with experienced subject specialists, its location in a relatively affluent part of London continues to challenge recruitment.
- The Head Teacher continues to sit on the Consortium Board for the Bromley Schools' Collegiate School Centred Initial Teacher Training provider and to seek ways to collaborate across the wider school system. He continued to Co-Chair the Bromley Secondary Head Teachers' Association and to facilitate National Professional Qualifications for the local Teaching School Hub.
- In the face of continued pressure on school budgets, the School has continued its work to ensure its curriculum is delivered in as efficient a way as possible whilst staying faithful to its aims and goals. This has meant that the School was again able to set a surplus budget for 2023/24.
- The School applies competitive purchasing procedures whilst additional income is generated through the School's Sports Centre, 3G pitch and other lettings, all managed by Schools Plus Ltd.
- The Finance Committee met eleven times over the past year along with the Audit and Risk Committee. Internal scrutiny (a physical security survey) was undertaken in July 2024 by Pharos Response and the report received by the Audit and Risk Committee; nothing of significance was highlighted. The School's Independent Auditor, Baxter & Co, completed an interim audit in the spring of 2024 and a full audit in the autumn. The Chairman of Governors, Chairman of Finance, Head Teacher and Business Manager met to review benchmarking reports in September 2023 and March 2024. It was concluded that the School provides value for money, but where the School's benchmarking highlighted spend was higher than average this was challenged and the Business Manager tasked with further investigation.
- Provisional comparisons against previous results suggest the School continues to provide its students with excellent outcomes in public examinations.
- The School's development objectives were largely achieved and results improved in Key Stage 4. There remains a gap between disadvantaged students and their peers although this has reduced from the previous year and areas for improvement indicated in the latest Ofsted inspection have been acted upon.
- The School was inspected by Ofsted in May 2024. It was judged to be Good in all areas, matching the outcome of its previous inspection in January 2019, but against the criteria of the latest Ofsted framework. Many significant strengths were noted, particularly the breadth of the curriculum, along with the School's inclusivity. Identified areas for improvement feature within the School's latest School Development Plan.
- Darrick Wood School attendance figures for 2023/24 (93%) were above the national figure of 90.9%.
- In 2023/24 there were two permanent exclusions. Fixed term exclusions (School suspensions), at 4.83%, contrasts with 18.90% (2022/23) nationally.
- Surveys of parents demonstrate overwhelmingly positive feedback, and all results are above the national average. The School acts quickly to address any suggested areas for improvement (e.g. review of data and reports).
- The School remains a popular choice locally and is over-subscribed.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Going concern

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

Financial review

We receive our income from a number of different sources. The majority of our income comes from central government via the ESFA who provide us with a grant, based largely on our student numbers to cover our staffing and other general running costs (General Annual Grant - GAG). The ESFA may provide us with additional grants which are earmarked for specific purposes (such as Pupil Premium which must be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as Department for Education (DfE)/ESFA grants. Where we receive grants or other funding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our students) this appears in the accounts as other government grants. Such income is collectively referred to as "Restricted Funds". Other income is received from parents (for example as contributions to trips or other costs) and from third parties (for example from our bank for interest on our account balances, or from others who are charged for their use of our facilities). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted, depending on whether it comes to us with conditions as to its use or whether it is available for spending at the discretion of the Trustees.

We hold funds in two broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending.

Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between those which are available for spending at the discretion of Trustees ("Unrestricted Funds") and those which are subject to condition or restriction, ("Restricted Funds").

Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. These have a value and are, therefore, included as assets in the accounts but, clearly, we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and local authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) surplus / (deficit) must also be reflected in our accounts and as this is not a conventional asset / (liability), it does not get included in spendable funds. The Trust meets its obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the scheme's actuaries.

The following balances held were held at 31 August:

Fund	Category	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
GAG	Restricted General Funds	711	784
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	138
Restricted funds	Restricted General Funds	117	125
	Sub-total General Restricted Funds	828	1,047
Unspent Capital Grants	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	3	87
Other Income	Unrestricted General Fund	422	363
	Sub-Total Spendable Funds	1,253	1,497
Net Book Value of Fixed Assets	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	10,115	10,588
Share of LGPS Surplus / (Deficit)	Restricted Pension Reserve	-	-
	Total All Funds	<u>11,368</u>	<u>12,085</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

During the year under review there was a decrease of £219k (2023: decrease of £88k) on general restricted funds, an increase of £59k (2023: increase of £40k) on unrestricted funds and after LGPS valuation adjustments, depreciation and capital income and expenditure, an overall decrease of £717k (2023: decrease of £562k) on total funds.

The Trust remains in a strong position with an in-year surplus. There is no risk posed by increasing energy costs, as the school has obtained a fixed price for two years for both electricity and gas ending in 2026, and it will continue to work with brokers to obtain the best price for the School.

Uncertainty regarding public sector pay for the period 2023/24 has been reduced following the announcement of the teachers' pay award, which is being fully funded by the Government. However, uncertainties still remain around any further increases in public sector pay for future periods after 2023/24, and the degree to which these will be funded by the government in addition to the School's usual income streams.

The Governing Body continues to review all long-term contracts with a view to securing best value for money for the School and in the past year new cleaning and catering contracts were signed as a result.

Whilst the Academy Trust's chosen agent for sports and lettings went into receivership during the pandemic, the School continued to seek compensation for the monies owed (£70,861) via the official receivers, but only 10% was recovered. The Trust appointed a new agent (Schools Plus Ltd), and the Sports Centre and lettings are buoyant, and the Trust continues to be in a position to place money into a sinking fund to replace the 3G pitch. A recent review of this fund indicated it is projected to be sufficient to replace the pitch when this becomes necessary.

Reserves policy

The Governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Governors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four weeks expenditure, approximately £943k. 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 School's current level of free reserves available for spending (total funds less the amount held in fixed asset fund and LGPS fund) is £1,250k of revenue funds and £3k of capital funds.

Governors keep spendable reserves under constant review to ensure that they have sufficient income to run the School on an efficient basis without adverse effect on the quality of teaching and learning.

Investment policy and powers

Investments are approved by the Governors' Finance Committee. We currently invest £1.1million with Barclays treasury reserve. The Business Manager and Finance Committee Chairman discuss reserves on a regular basis to ensure best rates are received. Due to outcomes of the Governors' Finance Committee, investments can be over periods of one, three and six months to allow flexibility for School reserves.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Governors have considered the principal risks and uncertainties that the School may be exposed to and these form the School's Risk Register. The Governors' Audit and Risk Committee considers the Risk Register on a regular basis and met eleven times during the year 2023/24. This Committee is separate to the Governors' Finance Committee and has a separate Committee Chairman. Policies and controls have been designed so that these risks and uncertainties can be quickly identified, allowing the School to respond swiftly in order to eliminate them.

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the School faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety and School trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of School grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control within the Governance Statement.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the School or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations;
- The School'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 Governing Body;
 - Regular reviews by the Finance 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);
 - Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
 - Identification and management of risks.

In addition, the Governors have considered the guidance for directors of public listed companies contained within the Turnbull Report. They believe that although it is not mandatory for the School it should, as a publicly funded body, adopt these guidelines as best practice. Accordingly, they have set policies on internal controls which cover the following:

- The type of risks the School faces;
- The level of risks which they regard as acceptable;
- The likelihood of the risks materialising;
- The School's ability to reduce the incidence and impact on the School's operations of risks that do materialise;
- The costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefits obtained;
- Clarified the responsibility of the Leadership Team to implement the Governors policies and to identify and evaluate risks for the Governors' consideration;
- Explained to employees that they have responsibility for internal control as part of their accountability for achieving objectives;
- Embedded the control system in the School's operations so that it becomes part of the culture of the School;
- Developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the School and to changes in the external environment; and
- Included procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management and the Governors together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

There is a risk posed by increasing energy costs, and although the School had the foresight to obtain a fixed price for two years for both electricity and gas it will continue to work with brokers to obtain the best price for the School. Uncertainty regarding public sector pay for the period 2023/24 has been reduced following the announcement of the teachers' pay award, which is being fully funded by the Government. However, uncertainties still remain around any further increases in public sector pay for future periods after 2023/24, and the degree to which these will be funded by the government in addition to the School's usual income streams.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

As the nature of the financial instruments dealt with by the company is relatively simple (bank balances, debtors and "trade" creditors), Trustees consider the associated risk in this area to be minimal.

The risk resulting from the company's share of the LGPS deficit is managed by following the advice of the scheme's actuaries, specifically as regards the level of contributions payable, ensuring that annual budgets are drawn up to reflect the actuary's advice.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Fundraising

The Trust and individual Academy within it organises fundraising events and appeals and co-ordinates the activities of our supporters both in the Academy and in the wider community on behalf of the Trust.

The Trust does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators.

There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

The Trust complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice.

All fundraising is undertaken by the Trust in a manner that seeks to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. Contact is made through email, Academy newsletters, our websites and via students. All fundraising material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

Plans for future periods

The Trust has been considering merging with another local trust to provide a formal framework for enhanced collaboration that will benefit staff and students at Darrick Wood School and a wider Multi Academy Trust. After a process to investigate different options, it has been proposed that Darrick Wood School will merge with the Impact MAT. A process of due diligence is underway by both parties.

The School Development Plan for 2024/25 reflects the School's corporate goals, values, vision for learning, recommendations from the May 2024 Ofsted inspection, and extensive self-evaluation. The objectives are:

1. To enable students to access the highest quality of teaching and learning more consistently across the School
2. To promote students' reading and oracy skills
3. To develop consistent approaches to behaviour management and develop students' pride in their school
4. To further promote and achieve equality, diversity and inclusion across the School
5. To ensure high prior attainers are challenged to achieve well
6. To enable disadvantaged students to achieve as highly as their peers
7. To improve attendance and punctuality and enhance parental engagement
8. To further develop the Personal Development Curriculum
9. To ensure the School reduces its carbon footprint and cares for the wider environment
10. To ensure a strong future for DWS

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy Trust does not hold any funds as custodian Trustee on behalf of any third parties.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Auditor

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

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

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

19th November 2024

D Wilcox

.....
Mr D Wilcox

Chairman of Trustees

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, as Accounting Officer for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirement of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Darrick Wood School and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors Responsibilities.

Mr Wilcox was re-elected as Chairman of the Governing Body on the 21st November 2023, and Mrs Hewitt and Mr Barnett were also re-elected as Co Vice Chairmen on the 21st November 2023. On the 12th March 2024 Ms Croot and Ms Mitchell were re-elected as Governing Body Members, and Mrs Hewitt, Mrs Morris, Mr Voyce and Mr Wilcox were re-elected as Trust Members. Ms Mitchell was appointed as a Trust Member on the 18th June 2024.

Mr Matharu resigned on the 1st September 2023. Mrs Hewitt resigned from the Finance Committee on the 13th March 2024, but remained a Full Governing Body and Trust Member until her full resignation on the 12th June 2024.

The Trust Members Annual General Meeting was held on the 7th November 2023. The full Governing Body formally met three times during the year plus one extraordinary meeting on the 9th May 2024 to discuss merging with a MAT. The Governors' Finance Committee formally met eleven times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body was as follows:

Governors	Main Meetings attended	Extraordinary Meeting attended	Out of possible
Dr M Airey	3	1	4
Mr N Allen	2	1	4
Mr I Barnett (Co Vice Chairman)	2	1	4
Mr P Cook	3	1	4
Ms S Croot*	0	0	4
Mrs J Hewitt*(Co Vice Chairman)	2	0	3
Ms S Mitchell	3	1	4
Mrs K Morris	3	0	4
Ms C Sheppard	3	1	4
Mr M Slater	3	1	4
Dr K Telford	3	1	4
Mrs E Thornton	3	1	4
Mr J Tuck	3	1	4
Mr A Twedde	2	1	4
Mr R Voyce	1	1	4
Mr D Wilcox (Chairman)	3	1	4

*Ms Croot and Mrs Hewitt have not been able to attend Governing Body meetings due to personal reasons. However, they both remained active Governors and are in regular contact with the Chairman and Head Teacher, reading all documents sent out to Governors and raising points for consideration at Committee meetings.

**Due to personal reasons Mr Matharu did not actively participate in Governor activities during 2022/23 and after the intervention of the Chairman of Governors, Mr Matharu subsequently resigned on the 1st September 2023.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conflict of interest

Pecuniary Interest forms are signed in the autumn term prior to the first Governing Body meeting of the academic year. At every Governors meeting the clerk asks attendees if any of their pecuniary interests have changed. If a Governor has a conflict of interest the Committee is made aware, and the Governor does not participate in the relevant discussions.

Governance reviews

In May 2024, Ofsted judged the School Good in all areas, including Leadership and Management. The Ofsted report stated that those responsible for governance work effectively to support the school. The Governing Body has identified criteria for self-evaluation, and evidence indicators for its effectiveness. The Governing Body's impact is demonstrated by:

- Success in implementation of the School's Development Plan;
- Governors' attendance at functions and sub-committee meetings;
- Securing value for money in the School's expenditure;
- Regular monitoring of income and expenditure;
- Examination results significantly above the national average;
- Exemplary behaviour of pupils;
- Compliance with legislation;
- Internal scrutiny of the School's finances conducted by Juniper Education.

The Governing Body completes an annual evaluation of its activities during its November meeting.

The work of the Governing Body is facilitated by its structure of committees; details of the Finance Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee are below.

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors. Its purpose is to:

- Establish an annual budget
- Monitor expenditure on a monthly basis during term-time
- Approve virement in excess of that delegated to the Head Teacher
- Report on a termly basis to the full Governing Body
- Ensure that the Financial Management Standards in School are fully met.

The Committee reviews the School's site and accommodation, the need for improvements and repairs and has commissioned relevant work, securing grants where appropriate and value for money from contractors, monitoring carefully the progress towards completion of projects to the required standard. Income received from the Sports Centre is also kept under review.

The Finance Committee meets on a monthly basis through the year with the exception of the August School holiday. Attendance at Finance Committee meetings was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Dr M Airey	11	11
Mr N Allen*	9	11
Mr I Barnett	11	11
Mr P Cook	11	11
Mrs J Hewitt* (resigned from Committee 13 th March 2024)	3	5
Mr M Slater	11	11
Mrs E Thornton	11	11
Mr A Tweddle	7	11
Mr D Wilcox	9	11

Mrs Hewitt has not been able to attend some Finance Committee meetings due to personal reasons. However, she remained an active member of the Finance Committee; in regular contact with the Chairman and Head Teacher, reading all documents sent out to Governors and raising points for consideration at Committee meetings.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors. Its purpose is to independently check financial systems, controls, transactions and risks and specifically to provide assurance over:

- Safeguarding of assets
- Delivery of value for money
- Risks of financial malpractice
- Risks of inappropriate use of funds.

The Audit and Risk Committee therefore reviews the very favourable systems reports from the auditors as well as the regular reports from the Independent Finance Review Officer (IFRO). This Committee has met on eleven occasions.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to 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 Governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Successfully implementing the School's development objectives. The 2023/24 GCSE results improved on those of 2022/23 and post-16 results remain strong. The majority of those leaving the Sixth Form progressed to university, deferred entry to the following year, or entered higher level apprenticeships.
- Ofsted May 2024 judged the School to be Good in all areas and many strengths were noted.
- Monthly meetings of the Governors' Finance Committee illustrate continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting, and the positive reports received from both auditors and the IFRO demonstrate sound internal spending controls and financial records are both accurate and up-to-date. In spite of substantial cuts from Government funding, the School has maintained a positive balance in its budget. Improved value for money has been secured through the School's success in securing grants, competitive tendering and from substantial discounts in the acquisition of goods and services. On all occasions the School follows the Governors' value for money policy (established in 2007) meticulously.
- All surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts to maximise income generation.
- The School has established regular meetings of a Governors' Buildings Committee. This has focused on the preparation and submission of Condition Improvement Fund bids. Whilst neither of these was successful in 2023/24, a strengthened fire safety bid is being prepared for the next submission round. The School endeavours to maintain best value for money by obtaining competitive quotes for estates maintenance works.
- The School has invested £64k in a new school wide announcement system to enhance safeguarding and security. The Sixth Form area has been enhanced and improved in addition to capital investment in equipment by our new supplier Aspens. £26k has been set aside to improve and repair fire doors, and £8.5k to refurbish the Main Hall floor. All playground areas have been improved with new seating and additional recreation equipment.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Darrick Wood School for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal 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 purpose 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.

In July 2024 Pharos Response provided an internal scrutiny report after conducting a physical security survey. The report did not highlight anything of significance with no high priority findings. A small number of medium and low priority findings have all been taken on board by the members of the Governing Body, and individual recommendations from the report will be addressed and dealt with on an ongoing basis.

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Governors have appointed Mr Gaston, as Independent Finance Review Officer (IFRO). The IFRO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the School's financial systems. On a regular basis, the IFRO reports to the Governors' Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities.

The IFRO visited the School twice each term. Checks carried out included testing of payroll, payments, income and bank reconciliations.

No material control issues have been notified to Governors as a result of the IFRO's work.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher had responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the observed period the review has been informed by:

- The work of the IFRO;
- The work of the External Auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process and the School's best value policy;
- The work of the Senior Leadership within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer advised the Finance Committee of the implications of the result of their reviews of the system of internal control. A plan to address the minor weaknesses identified, and ensure continuous improvement of the system has been implemented.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on the 19th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Wilcox
Chairman of Trustees



Dr M Airey
Head Teacher

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of Darrick Wood School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Governors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



Dr M Airey
Accounting Officer

19 November 2024

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governors (who act as trustees for Darrick Wood School and are also the directors of Darrick Wood School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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 Governors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

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

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

The Governors 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 Governors on 19/11/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Mr D Wilcox
Chair of Trustees

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of Darrick Wood School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the Financial Statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Governors 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.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the statement of Governors' responsibilities, the Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal assurance reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Use of our report

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



Louise Hallsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Baxter & Co

5 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 November 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Darrick Wood School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Darrick Wood School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Darrick Wood School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 November 2010 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of payments to staff;
- Review of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- Review of grant and other income streams;
- Review of some key financial control procedures;
- Discussions with finance staff;
- Consideration of the record maintained by the Accounting Officer of the oversight they have exercised;
- Consideration of the programme of internal scrutiny implemented by the Academy Trust in order to comply with its obligations under 3.1 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, issued by the ESFA.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Baxter & Co.

Reporting Accountant

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

Dated: 5 December 2024

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £'000 £'000		Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	10	35	45	104
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	6	12,399	-	12,405	11,673
Other trading activities	5	69	5	-	74	67
Investments	6	-	46	-	46	22
Total		<u>75</u>	<u>12,460</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>12,570</u>	<u>11,866</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	16	12,427	731	13,174	12,558
Total	7	<u>16</u>	<u>12,427</u>	<u>731</u>	<u>13,174</u>	<u>12,558</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		59	33	(696)	(604)	(692)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(139)	139	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	270	-	270	1,060
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(383)	-	(383)	(930)
Net movement in funds		59	(219)	(557)	(717)	(562)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>363</u>	<u>1,047</u>	<u>10,675</u>	<u>12,085</u>	<u>12,647</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>422</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>10,118</u>	<u>11,368</u>	<u>12,085</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	funds £'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	18	86	104
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	19	11,654	-	11,673
Other trading activities	5	61	6	-	67
Investments	6	22	-	-	22
Total		<u>102</u>	<u>11,678</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>11,866</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	12	11,737	809	12,558
Total	7	<u>12</u>	<u>11,737</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>12,558</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		90	(59)	(723)	(692)
Transfers between funds	16	(50)	(67)	117	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	1,060	-	1,060
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(930)	-	(930)
Net movement in funds		40	4	(606)	(562)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>323</u>	<u>1,043</u>	<u>11,281</u>	<u>12,647</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>363</u>	<u>1,047</u>	<u>10,675</u>	<u>12,085</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		10,115		10,588
Current assets					
Debtors	13	231		183	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,733		2,032	
		1,964		2,215	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(711)		(718)	
Net current assets			1,253		1,497
Net assets excluding pension asset			11,368		12,085
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
Total net assets			11,368		12,085
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			10,118		10,675
- Restricted income funds			828		1,047
Total restricted funds			10,946		11,722
Unrestricted income funds	16		422		363
Total funds			11,368		12,085

The Financial Statements on pages 24 to 46 were approved by the Governors and authorised for issue on 19/11/2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr D Wilcox
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07393519 (England and Wales)

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	£'000	2023 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19		(120)		181
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		46		22	
Capital grants from DfE Group		35		86	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(258)		(410)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(177)		(302)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term government loan		(2)		(4)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(2)		(4)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(299)		(125)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,032		2,157
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u>1,733</u>		<u>2,032</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £5,000 or more per item (or less if they form part of a larger purchase or project where the total cost exceeds £25,000) are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Freehold land and buildings	2%
ICT / Computer equipment	50%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20%
Motor vehicles	20%

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

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.12 Agency arrangements

Where the Academy Trust acts as agent in collecting and / or distributing from the ESFA or others, and subsequent disbursements are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 24.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 18, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Governors have not needed to exercise any subjective judgements that would be critical to the Academy Trust's Financial Statements.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Capital grants	-	35	35	86
Other donations	-	10	10	18
	<u>-</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>104</u>

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,098	8,098	7,750
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	223	223	208
- 16-19 funding	-	2,499	2,499	2,268
- Others	-	724	724	529
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,544</u>	<u>11,544</u>	<u>10,755</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	364	364	410
	<u>-</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>410</u>
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	80
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>
Other funding				
Catering income	-	25	25	-
Trips income	-	423	423	352
Other incoming resources	6	43	49	76
	<u>6</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>428</u>
Total funding	<u>6</u>	<u>12,399</u>	<u>12,405</u>	<u>11,673</u>

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023/24 of some grants received from the Department for Education and ESFA, the Academy Trust's 16-19 core education funding is no longer reported under the GAG heading, but as separate line under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	69	-	69	61
Income from facilities and services	-	5	5	6
	<u>69</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>67</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Short term deposits	-	46	46	22
	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>22</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	8,599	585	1,047	10,231	9,448
- Allocated support costs	1,467	1,136	340	2,943	3,110
	<u>10,066</u>	<u>1,721</u>	<u>1,387</u>	<u>13,174</u>	<u>12,558</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Operating lease rentals	19	19
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	731	809
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	9	9
- Other services	7	7
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(61)	(4)
	<u>705</u>	<u>830</u>

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total 2024 £	Individual 2024 £
Gifts made by the Academy Trust - total	<u>336</u>	<u>336</u>

Clarification – While the majority of disclosure in these accounts are rounded to £'000, the disclosure of gifts made is not. The value of gifts for the year is £336 (and not £336k).

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	-	10,231	10,231	9,448
Support costs				
Educational operations	16	2,927	2,943	3,110
	<u>16</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>13,174</u>	<u>12,558</u>
Analysis of costs			2024	2023
			£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs			8,599	7,823
Staff development			18	17
Depreciation			585	647
Technology costs			1	8
Educational supplies and services			309	302
Examination fees			220	215
Other direct costs			499	436
			<u>10,231</u>	<u>9,448</u>
Support costs				
Support staff costs			1,519	1,483
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)			(52)	42
Depreciation			146	162
Technology costs			-	2
Maintenance of premises and equipment			230	317
Cleaning			212	253
Energy costs			394	356
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs			103	138
Insurance			49	46
Security and transport			8	5
Catering			118	55
Defined benefit pension scheme - finance costs (FRS102 adjustment)			(61)	(4)
Legal costs			-	2
Other support costs			257	232
Governance costs			20	21
			<u>2,943</u>	<u>3,110</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	7,344	6,936
Social security costs	785	668
Pension costs	1,707	1,562
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	(52)	42
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	9,784	9,208
Agency staff costs	282	140
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	<u>10,066</u>	<u>9,348</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	100	100
Administration and support	104	108
Management	12	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	216	220
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	91	87
Administration and support	75	72
Management	12	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	178	171
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	12	6
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Governors 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 Trust was £744k (2023: £709k).

10 Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Head Teacher and other Staff Governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Head Teacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Governors.

The value of Governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

M Airey (Head Teacher):

- Remuneration £140,000 - £145,000 (2023: £130,000 - £135,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £35,000 - £40,000 (2023: £30,000 - £35,000)

J Tuck (Staff Governor):

- Remuneration £60,000 - £65,000 (2023: £60,000 - £65,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £15,000 - £20,000 (2023: £10,000 - £15,000)

P Cook (Staff Governor):

- Remuneration £60,000 - £65,000 (2023: £55,000 - £60,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £15,000 - £20,000 (2023: £10,000 - £15,000)

M Slater (Staff Governor):

- Remuneration £50,000 - £55,000 (2023: £45,000 - £50,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2023: £10,000 - £15,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenses totalling £24 (2023: £4) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Governor (2023: 1 Governor).

Other related party transactions involving the Governors are set out within the related parties note.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Governors' and officers' insurance

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	ICT / Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	17,174	697	460	54	18,385
Additions	52	206	-	-	258
Disposals	-	(127)	-	-	(127)
At 31 August 2024	17,226	776	460	54	18,516
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	6,651	639	453	54	7,797
On disposals	-	(127)	-	-	(127)
Charge for the year	572	156	3	-	731
At 31 August 2024	7,223	668	456	54	8,401
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	10,003	108	4	-	10,115
At 31 August 2023	10,523	58	7	-	10,588

13 Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	8	4
VAT recoverable	38	19
Other debtors	5	10
Prepayments and accrued income	180	150
	231	183

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Government loans	-	2
Trade creditors	84	10
Other taxation and social security	176	170
ESFA creditors	6	33
Other creditors	220	234
Accruals and deferred income	225	269
	<u>711</u>	<u>718</u>

15 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	63	73
	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	73	138
Released from previous years	(73)	(138)
Resources deferred in the year	63	73
	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	63	73

Deferred income relates to income received in advance for trips and activities of £63k (2023: £73k),

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	784	8,098	(8,032)	(139)	711
Pupil premium	-	223	(223)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	138	3,223	(3,361)	-	-
Other government grants	-	364	(364)	-	-
Other restricted funds	125	552	(560)	-	117
Pension reserve	-	-	113	(113)	-
	<u>1,047</u>	<u>12,460</u>	<u>(12,427)</u>	<u>(252)</u>	<u>828</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	5,773	-	(464)	-	5,309
DfE group capital grants	3,528	35	(114)	-	3,449
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	1,374	-	(153)	139	1,360
	<u>10,675</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>(731)</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>10,118</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>11,722</u>	<u>12,495</u>	<u>(13,158)</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>10,946</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	363	75	(16)	-	422
	<u>363</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>422</u>
Total funds	<u>12,085</u>	<u>12,570</u>	<u>(13,174)</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>11,368</u>

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

The Restricted General Funds are used to fund the general operating costs of the Academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

All restricted funds are available to be spent for the purposes for which the funds were received.

The Pension Reserve represents the Academy Trust's share of the LGPS pension fund deficit / surplus, as valued by the scheme's actuaries.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of fixed assets plus the unspent element of Capital funds, less Capital Loans. When assets are purchased, the fund is increased, and depreciation charges reduce the fund.

Unrestricted Funds represent balances held at period end that can be applied at the discretion of the Governors, to support any of the Academy Trust's charitable purposes.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	790	7,750	(7,689)	(67)	784
Pupil premium	-	208	(208)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	80	(80)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	143	2,797	(2,802)	-	138
Other government grants	-	410	(410)	-	-
Other restricted funds	202	433	(510)	-	125
Pension reserve	(92)	-	(38)	130	-
	<u>1,043</u>	<u>11,678</u>	<u>(11,737)</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>1,047</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	6,237	-	(464)	-	5,773
DfE group capital grants	3,642	86	(200)	-	3,528
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	1,402	-	(145)	117	1,374
	<u>11,281</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>(809)</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>10,675</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>12,324</u>	<u>11,764</u>	<u>(12,546)</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>11,722</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	323	102	(12)	(50)	363
	<u>323</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>(12)</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>363</u>
Total funds	<u>12,647</u>	<u>11,866</u>	<u>(12,558)</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>12,085</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,115	10,115
Current assets	422	1,539	3	1,964
Current liabilities	-	(711)	-	(711)
Total net assets	<u>422</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>10,118</u>	<u>11,368</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,588	10,588
Current assets	889	1,239	87	2,215
Current liabilities	(526)	(192)	-	(718)
Total net assets	<u>363</u>	<u>1,047</u>	<u>10,675</u>	<u>12,085</u>

18 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £208k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £177k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,707k (2023: £1,132k).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.5% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Employer's contributions	393	428
Employees' contributions	116	103
Total contributions	<u>509</u>	<u>531</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10	4.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.40
CPI increases	2.60	2.80
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.7	21.7
- Females	24.1	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.7	22.7
- Females	25.7	25.7
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	7,025	6,056
Mortality assumption + 1 year	7,280	6,269
CPI rate + 0.1%	7,255	6,173
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Scheme assets	8,452	7,083
Scheme obligations	(7,139)	(6,153)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net asset	1,313	930
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,313)	(930)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liability recognised	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £'000	2023 Fair value £'000
Equities	4,741	4,413
Government bonds	228	177
Other Bonds	930	567
Cash	651	198
Property	499	439
Other assets	1,403	1,289
Total market value of assets	8,452	7,083
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,313)	(930)
Net assets recognised	7,139	6,153

The actual return on scheme assets was £858,000 (2023: £(121,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	322	451
Interest income	(397)	(300)
Interest cost	336	296
Administration expenses	19	19
Total amount recognised	280	466

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2023	6,153
Current service cost	322
Interest cost	336
Employee contributions	116
Actuarial loss/(gain)	191
Benefits paid	21
At 31 August 2024	7,139

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2023	7,083
Interest income	397
Actuarial (gain)/loss	461
Employer contributions	393
Employee contributions	116
Benefits paid	21
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(19)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	8,452
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,313)
	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	<u>7,139</u>

19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(604)	(692)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(35)	(86)
Investment income receivable	6	(22)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	42
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18	(4)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	731	809
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(48)	231
(Decrease) in creditors	(5)	(97)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(120)</u>	<u>181</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
Cash	2,032	(299)	1,733
Loans falling due within one year	(2)	2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>2,030</u>	<u>(297)</u>	<u>1,733</u>

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	31	2
Amounts due in two and five years	98	-
	<u>129</u>	<u>2</u>

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Governors have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

C Wilson-Hooper is employed by the Academy Trust and is related to A Tweddle (a Trustee). C Wilson-Hooper's appointment was made in open competition and A Tweddle was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. C Wilson-Hooper is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a Trustee.

In entering into these transactions, the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

23 Members' liability

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

24 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary and vulnerable bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the Trust had an unspent balance brought forward of £8k (2023: £9k). The trust received £18k (2023: £11k) and disbursed £14k (2023: £12k) from the funds. An amount of £12k (2023: £8k) is included within creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year relating to undistributed funds.