

**Company registration number 08610537 (England and Wales)**

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

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# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Mrs H Thorpe  
Mr P Kerr  
Mrs D Richards  
Mrs J Heath (non-voting)

### Trustees

Miss A Mumford (Executive Headteacher / Accounting Officer)  
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)  
Mr P Kerr (Resigned 1 July 2023)  
Mrs D Richards  
Mrs J Heath (non-voting)

### Senior management team

- Executive Headteacher	A Mumford
- Head of SEBDOS	J Heath
- School Administration Manager	K Barnicle
- Ass't Head of Behaviour & Inclusion	T Davies
- SENCo	S Trevena
- Ass't Head of Pupil Progress	N Heaffey

### Company secretary

S D'Souza

### Company registration number

08610537 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

The Specialist Education Trust  
Queens Road  
Slough  
Berkshire  
SL1 3QW

### Independent auditor

UHY Hacker Young  
Quadrant House  
4 Thomas More Square  
London  
E1W 1YW

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank  
Slough Trading Estates, Business Centre  
Lloyds TSB Business Bankings  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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**Solicitors**

Winckworth Sherwood LLP  
Minerva House  
5 Montague Close  
London  
SE1 9BB

## **THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Specialist Education Trust (SET) in 2022-23 incorporated Littledown Special School (38 places), A Primary Alternative Provision (13 places), and an Outreach Service called SEBDOS. It has a combined pupil capacity of 51 places.

Littledown Special School was rated as 'GOOD' by Ofsted in February 2020.

The current Headteacher / Accounting Officer has been in post since 1st September 2020.

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

##### Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of SET are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as the Specialist Education Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

There are and were no qualifying third-party indemnity provisions during the financial year to which this report relates.

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

On conversion to an academy in 1st October 2013, the Trustees appointed were from the predecessor school Local Governing Bodies (this included the Chair person). The Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this limit does not apply to the Executive Headteacher(s). Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

Thereafter when appointing new Trustees, the Board give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

The Trustees may appoint Staff Trustees through such process as they may determine.

The total number of Trustees including the Executive Headteacher who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

## **THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

All of the Trustees have many years' experience of school governance. The school buys into 'The School Bus' as a source of information. New Governors are required to attend an induction training course. Further training and development is identified in relation to whole Governing Body needs. Specific finance training for Trustees is conducted by the Trusts Finance Team, and data training is provided by the Trust's Executive Head Teacher.

A competency survey has been undertaken on Trustees and this reveals a range of skills/competencies which match the Trustees/school's needs. This has also been useful in the recruitment of new Trustees.

##### Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of the individual local governing bodies and any other groups. It monitors the activities of the school specific local governing body through their minutes and updates received from those individuals who also sit on the Trusts Board. The Board itself may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The school's individual local governing bodies look to cover holistically the work of the traditional sub committees. These being Finance & Resources, Curriculum and the Personnel Committee. This joined up approach allows a more informed discussion and debate as both financial resources and curriculum needs are addressed at the one meeting and all local governors are thereby informed and take part in the decision-making process.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees to consider. These decisions include any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the chairman at Board and local governing body level, to appoint the Headteacher and the clerk to the Board. Also, to approve the Annual Budget.

The Board is responsible for setting the general policy, adopting the annual budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy by use of budgets and other data and making major decisions about the strategic direction of the Academy.

The Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academy Trust to the Executive Headteacher and the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). They implement the policies laid down by the Board and report back to their individual local governing bodies and the Board on performance.

The Executive Headteacher and the local governing body are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; this responsibility is governed by the approved financial scheme of delegation. The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff and a Governor presence is required for senior appointments.

The Executive Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Headteacher's pay and remuneration is reviewed annually and agreed by the Trust Pay Committee. The Committee is advised by an external advisor and meets annually with the Headteacher.

The Pay Committee also reviews the Trust's pay policy annually. This policy follows the teachers pay and conditions document. All teaching posts include the maximum SEN allowance.

All non teaching posts have been harmonised as part of the Borough's job evaluation review process. The job descriptions have been matched to job profiles which evaluate the competencies of the role and then matches the skills and qualifications required. This process was carried out in consultation with governors, unions and HR professionals. The salary scale is reviewed annually in line with the Slough pay scales for non teaching posts.

##### Trade Union facility time

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

The Trust does not have this total number of full time equivalent employees.

##### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no 'Related Party Relationships' and no formally connected organisations.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the Multi Academy Trust is the operation of a Primary Special school, coupled with 4-11 aged settings of alternative provision and an all age behavior support service.

The aims of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- To continue to raise standards of educational attainment and achievement of pupils.
- To develop students as more effective learners.
- To develop the Trust's site so that it enables students to achieve their full potential.
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing tuition and care.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To continue to develop strong relationships with primary mainstream schools within the Local Authority and neighbouring areas.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To develop the Academy Trust's capacity to manage change, and
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

##### Objectives, strategies and activities

Key priorities for the year are contained in our Academy Action Plan. These are:

- Promoting and deploying Outreach Services within the Trust;
- To develop and expand Trust Provision.
- To ensure that all academies / schools within the Trust are at least good and this judgement is sustained within the changing OfSTED framework.

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### Key Stage 1 and 2 Targets

The Trust have previously used the DfE Progression Guidance to set class and individual student targets for the coming year for reading, writing, maths and science. Governors, teachers and school leaders then meet to validate these targets, ensuring they provide suitable challenge.

Ofsted have confirmed that inspectors expect all pupils in mainstream schools, including those with SEN, to make the same amount of progress in each Key Stage.

However, some pupils will not achieve this target, and in these situations, it will be for schools to explain why this is the case. The Trust aim to consider progress as part of a holistic approach, recognizing that sometimes progress in emotional development or consistent attendance or behaviour maybe a pre cursor to academic progress. Any pupil who has not achieved their academic targets will be subject to a review of progress which will detail all areas of progress and the interventions in place.

#### Public benefit

In setting the objectives, the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

#### Achievements and performance

Pupils making expected progress at the end of KS2 from baseline when starting the school (the figures in brackets are from KS1 official data not from baseline when starting the school which can often be lower as children may have been out of school):

Subject	% making expected progress				
	2019	2020 (9 pupils)	2021 (5 pupils)	2022 (12 pupils)	2023 (13 pupils)
Reading	50 (0)	44	20	41	54
Writing	50 (13)	44	60	58	62
Maths	63 (0)	44	80	16	31
Science	50	44	60	41	31

#### Pupils making expected progress at the end of KS1 from baseline when starting the school

Subject	% making expected progress				
	2019	2020 (4 pupils)	2021 (5 pupils)	2022 (5 pupils)	2023 (2 of 3 pupils*)
Reading	40	25	50	20	50
Writing	40	25	25	80	50
Maths	80	0	50	0	100
Science	20	100	75	75	0

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Key performance indicators

Attainment data

Phonics test summary

	Littledown 2019	Littledown 2020	Littledown 2021	Littledown 2022	Littledown 2023
Year 1	0%	No test	x	0%	No yr1s
Year 2	0%	No test	0%	20%	33%

KS1 results

Littledown KS1 teacher assessment 2023 No. of pupils achieving standard (3 pupils)				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	Science
EXS (secure)	0	0	0	0
WTS (beginning and developing)	0	0	2	0
HNM (working within KS1 but not at Y2 level)	0	0	0	3
PKF (pre-key stage 1)	3	3	1	0
BLW (below pre-key stage standards)	0	0	0	0
A (absent)	0	0	0	0

KS2 results

Littledown KS2 teacher assessment 2023 No. of pupils achieving standard (13 pupils)				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	Science
EXS (secure)	1	0	3	8
WTS (beginning & developing)	6	5	1	0
HNM (working within KS2 but not at Y6 level)	0	0	0	5
PKS (working within KS1)	6	8	9	0
A (absent)	0	0	0	0

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### Exclusions

Permanent exclusions and the number and length of fixed term suspensions in Slough primary schools remains below the National average due to the collaborative work between Littledown and local primary schools. There is a national focus on behavior and the reduction of exclusions at present.

<b>Littledown Exclusions</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>22-23</b>
Total number of pupil places	41	47	57	48	45
<b>Permanent Exclusions</b>					
	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Fixed Term Suspensions</b>					
Total number of pupils	18 (44%)	14 (30%)	11 (19%)	14 (29%)	11 (24%)
Total number of days	77	45.5	41.5	44.5	48
Average length of exclusion	2.7 days	2.6 days	3.8 days	1.2 days	1.2 days

### Reintegration to mainstream school

The following information is based on number of pupils returning to mainstream education from the special school.

<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
15.7%	7%	11%	40%	33%	8%

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Attendance data

Attendance data						
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (up to lockdown date)	2020-21 (inc. Jan 21 Lockdown)	2021-22	2022-23
Whole school %	90.87	81.07	88.16%	73.79%	86.57%	85.77%
90% + attendance						
Number of pupils	35	41	47	12	32	25
%	75	71	64	26	66	54

In addition to reports on specific issues of achievement and performance, Trustees receive a comprehensive report from the Executive Head Teacher, and Local Governing Bodies receive detailed reports on a termly basis. The Chair of the trustees meets frequently with the Executive Head Teacher to review progress on key objectives and to discuss strategy.

#### Key Performance Indicators

The following are the KPIs for the Trust: -

- Develop a culture of excellence in teaching, learning and assessment at Key Stage 1 and 2;
- Have a shared vision, values, culture and ethos based on the highest expectations of all members of the school community;
- To develop a culture of positive learning behaviour;
- To improve the delivery of numeracy across the curriculum;
- To ensure that pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment; and
- To continue to offer support to reduce exclusions in school and across the LA.

#### Going concern

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

#### **Financial review**

The Trust receives its main funding via the GAG the majority of which is pupil led. However, a significant proportion is generated from the income trading entity of the trust, that being SEBDOS. The Academy also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting for Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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On 1 October 2013, the Academy inherited a staff body at Littledown Special School, through the TUPE process. This staff body included membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and the deficit on conversion at 1 October 2013 of £599,000 relating to members was transferred

Under the Charities SORP, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the LGPS, which is provided to support staff, to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the academy. It should be noted that this does not present the Academy with any current liquidity problem, the employer contributions are currently being assessed and it is expected that they will increase to bring a further reduction in this pension deficit in future.

A finance procedure document determines the way the school operates finances from day to day and this is informed by the Academy Financial Handbook issued by the DfE. A Responsible Officer undertakes regular checks of procedure and reports directly to Trustees via the Trust Finance & Resources Committee. There were no issues requiring action identified during the year.

#### Reserves policy

Reserves of £4,063,937 are held as at 31 August 2023. Via the Trust's Finance Committee reserves are monitored. They are used to improve the school's buildings stock and where possible to increase accommodation. However, a prudent policy for the use of reserves is followed in view of uncertainty about future funding and in particular the introduction of a national funding formula. The Academy relies heavily 'Top Up's' from the Local Authority and the levels required to ensure placements are sustainable cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, projected budgets over a 5-year period show a need to hold reserves to allow the Academy to manage expenditure efficiently over a period of time as funding becomes tighter and staffing costs increase through pay rises, increased NI costs and increased pension contributions together with inflationary pressures.

#### Investment policy

Funds, surplus to day to day requirements, are invested in Lloyds Bank Plc in short term or medium-term accounts in order to earn interest for the benefit of school funds. There are no social, environmental or ethical considerations necessary to take into account.

The security of any investment is paramount and will only be made once the Board of Trustees are satisfied that it does not pose a risk to the Trust and that they will be made only with institutions approved by the Board of Trustees in the context of advice from a qualified accountant. Formal approval must be obtained from the Board of Trustees to proceed with any investment.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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##### Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees identified a potential risk to the Academy when the Local Authority began to share information outlining funding pressures on the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and in particular across Special Education Needs Funding (SEN). This financial pressure aligned to the increase in required SEN places is closely monitoring via the Trusts risk register.

Trustees are provided with budget forecasts over a 5-year period. These indicate possible financial pressure in the future and are based on the latest funding formula data, but expenditure rising through inflation, pay rises, an increase in national insurance contributions and further increases in pension contributions. In addition, there is still uncertainty around the introduction of a national funding formula.

The Academy has always been able to balance expenditure against income on a yearly basis without recourse to carry forward balances. This has meant that the Academy is currently in a healthy financial position as far as carry forward balances are concerned, and these are being held in reserve for future estate building costs and to cushion any future budget pressures.

There is also an increasing deficit on the LGPS and this is reflected in our Balance Sheet. This position is kept under review.

A risk register is maintained with all the significant risks identified and this is reviewed annually.

##### **Fundraising**

###### **Approach to fundraising**

Trustees are alive to the issue of fundraising and have considered letting out the premises at Littledown School to produce an income. No clear way forward has been presented without their being a risk to the condition of the premises, but this will be continually kept in mind.

###### **Work with, and oversight of, any commercial participators / professional fundraisers**

Trustees have not engaged with any professional fundraisers or commercial participants.

###### **Fundraising conforming to recognised standards**

See comment above.

###### **Monitoring of fundraising carried out on its behalf**

See comment above.

###### **Fundraising complaints**

None.

###### **Protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.**

Not applicable.

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

The stand-alone Academy became a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1 October 2013. There are no current plans to expand the current portfolio of educational entities.

###### **Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The Trust does not hold any funds as a custodian for others.

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

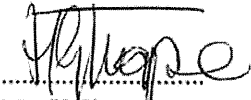
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**Auditor**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 11/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Thorpe

**Chair**

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### Scope of responsibility

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

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

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Miss A Mumford (Executive Headteacher / Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)	4	4
Mr P Kerr (Resigned 1 July 2023)	4	4
Mrs D Richards	4	4
Mrs J Heath (non-voting)	4	4

A competency audit was conducted during the year.

The quality of data used by the board is outstanding both in terms of assessment of pupil's progress and attainment and in terms of financial monitoring.

The **Finance committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree the budget for the Trust and to recommend formal acceptance by the Board of Trustees. A 5-year projected budget is produced, and this ensures that there is effective financial planning going forward. It also monitors the annual budget for the school during the year. Extensive budget projections and monitoring information is provided by the Finance Office of the Trust. Experience shows that predictions are accurate, and the Trustees have confidence in the quality of information provided in order for them to make effective decisions. The committee met 4 times during the year.

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**  
**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
Miss A Mumford (Executive Headteacher / Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)	4	4
Mr P Kerr (Resigned 1 July 2023)	4	4
Mrs D Richards	4	4
Mrs J Heath (non-voting)	4	4

**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher (supported by the Finance Office) has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Undertaking a general review of contracts;
- Implementing the financial procedures approved by Trustees to ensure that an appropriate number of quotations/tenders are received before contracts are let and purchases made;
- Undertaking competitive tendering where appropriate; and
- Generally ensuring that 'best price' applies to all purchases.

**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 priorities' 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 Specialist Education Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. An independent Responsible Officer oversees financial procedures and ensures that they are followed in practice.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Trustees 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 Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

## **THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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##### **The risk and control framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees;
- 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; and
- identification and management of risks

The Trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit of procedures and controls and have appointed an external Responsible Officer (Internal Scrutiny).

The Responsible Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations.
- testing of incoming resources
- review of VAT returns
- review of pension returns
- review of budget monitoring
- review of fixed asset register
- review of debt management & recovery

On a quarterly basis, the Internal Scrutiny reports are presented to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. All reports during the year have found no requirements for action.

##### **Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the Responsible Officer (Internal Scrutiny);
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the Finance Office within the Academy Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance Committee and no weaknesses have been identified by auditors or the Responsible Officer.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:



Miss A Mumford  
Headteacher/Accounting Officer



Mrs H Thorpe  
Trustee

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

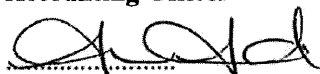
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As accounting officer of The Specialist Education Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the 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 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

Miss A Mumford  
**Accounting Officer**



## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the Trustees 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 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 11/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs H Thorpe  
Chair



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST  
EDUCATION TRUST  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of The Specialist Education Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 2022 to 2023.

**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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST  
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts 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.

**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 trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' 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 trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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 accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST  
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

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

Based on our understanding of the Company and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Company, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risk related to overstated assets.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by management that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST  
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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.



**Colin Wright (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young**

12/12/2023

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 November 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Specialist Education Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of The Specialist Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Specialist Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 23 September 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON  
REGULARITY TO THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND  
SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Evaluation of the general control environment;
- Confirmation that the internal delegations have been approved by the governing body, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education;
- Review of the declaration of interests to ensure completeness;
- Review of minutes for evidence of declaration of interest;
- A sample of payments has been reviewed to confirm that each item has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities;
- A sample of cash payments were reviewed for unusual transactions;
- A sample of expenditure items were reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Formal representations have obtained from the governing body and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities for matters relating to regularity and propriety.

In line with the Framework and guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

**Conclusion**

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

UHY Hacker Young

**Reporting Accountant**

Dated: 12/12/2023

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	19,365	5,873
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,646,351	-	1,976,662
Other trading activities	5	246,098	2,720	-	272,088
Investments	6	23,094	-	-	1,107
<b>Total</b>		<u>269,192</u>	<u>1,649,071</u>	<u>19,365</u>	<u>2,255,730</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7	102	984	-	1,286
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	1,981,381	79,385	2,491,462
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>102</u>	<u>1,982,365</u>	<u>79,385</u>	<u>2,492,748</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		269,090	(333,294)	(60,020)	(124,224)
Transfers between funds	15	(1,813)	-	1,813	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	194,000	-	1,834,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>267,277</u>	<u>(139,294)</u>	<u>(58,207)</u>	<u>1,596,982</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,759,408</u>	<u>81,128</u>	<u>2,153,625</u>	<u>3,994,161</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>2,026,685</u>	<u>(58,166)</u>	<u>2,095,418</u>	<u>4,063,937</u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

<b>Comparative year information</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted funds:</b>		<b>Total</b>
<b>Year ended 31 August 2022</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fixed asset</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	5,873	5,873
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,976,662	-	1,976,662
Other trading activities	5	268,466	3,622	-	272,088
Investments	6	1,107	-	-	1,107
<b>Total</b>		<u>269,573</u>	<u>1,980,284</u>	<u>5,873</u>	<u>2,255,730</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7	162	1,124	-	1,286
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	2,423,298	68,164	2,491,462
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>162</u>	<u>2,424,422</u>	<u>68,164</u>	<u>2,492,748</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		269,411	(444,138)	(62,291)	(237,018)
Transfers between funds	15	(51,771)	-	51,771	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	1,834,000	-	1,834,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		217,640	1,389,862	(10,520)	1,596,982
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,541,768</u>	<u>(1,308,734)</u>	<u>2,164,145</u>	<u>2,397,179</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,759,408</u>	<u>81,128</u>	<u>2,153,625</u>	<u>3,994,161</u>

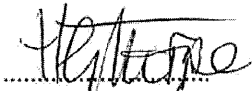
**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		2,095,418		2,153,625
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	130,709		100,011	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,324,165		2,396,774	
		<u>2,454,874</u>		<u>2,496,785</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(127,355)		(138,249)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>2,327,519</u>		<u>2,358,536</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>4,422,937</u>		<u>4,512,161</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17		<u>(359,000)</u>		<u>(518,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><u>4,063,937</u></u>		<u><u>3,994,161</u></u>
<b>Funds of the trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	15				
- Fixed asset funds			2,095,418		2,153,625
- Restricted income funds			300,834		599,128
- Pension reserve			<u>(359,000)</u>		<u>(518,000)</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>2,037,252</u>		<u>2,234,753</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15		<u>2,026,685</u>		<u>1,759,408</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>4,063,937</u></u>		<u><u>3,994,161</u></u>

The accounts on pages 25 to 50 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 11/12/23 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
 Mrs H Thorpe  
**Chair**

Company registration number 08610537 (England and Wales)

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	18		(93,890)		43,665
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		23,094		1,107	
Capital grants from DfE Group		19,365		5,873	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(21,178)		(48,790)	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>			21,281		(41,810)
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(72,609)		1,855
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,396,774		2,394,919
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			2,324,165		2,396,774
<b>Relating to:</b>					
Bank and cash balances			832,481		928,098
Short term deposits			1,491,684		1,468,676

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

The Specialist Education Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

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

##### 1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the 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 (GAG) 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.

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

##### Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where performance-related conditions do not exist) 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 trust has provided the goods or services.

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

#### 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 that contribute to more than one activity and support costs that 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 trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Charitable activities

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

##### Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including: audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants they are capitalised and are depreciated as below. The related grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Buildings under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value certified and other direct costs incurred to 31 August. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

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:

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

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.

#### 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 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.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.7 Leased assets

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

##### 1.8 Financial instruments

The trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the 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 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 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 trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 18, 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 recognised in the period to which they relate.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the 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 trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources that are applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency and the Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education Funding Agency and the Department for Education.

# THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.12 Financial Assets

###### Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. The transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

###### Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

###### Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

##### 1.13 Financial liabilities

###### Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Trust after deducting all of its liabilities. Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

###### Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Trust's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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## 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 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.

### *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full triennial actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and the next full triennial actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability shown in these financial statements.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the Academy Trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The Academy Trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

### Critical areas of judgement

The trustees must establish which areas of judgement are critical to the academy trust's financial statements. There are no judgements critical to the academy trust's financial statements.

## 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	19,365	19,365	5,873

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**4 Funding for the trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	510,000	510,000	574,176
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	28,310	28,310	31,950
- Others	-	65,695	65,695	48,352
	-	604,005	604,005	654,478
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	1,042,346	1,042,346	1,316,161
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	6,023
<b>Total funding</b>	-	1,646,351	1,646,351	1,976,662

**5 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Catering income	1,115	-	1,115	2,026
Sales income	242,545	-	242,545	254,047
Other income	2,438	2,720	5,158	16,015
	246,098	2,720	248,818	272,088

**6 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	23,094	-	23,094	1,107

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**7 Expenditure**

	<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>Non-pay expenditure</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	1,086	1,086	1,286
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,347,357	-	83,662	1,431,019	1,585,849
- Allocated support costs	246,513	170,711	212,523	629,747	905,613
	<u>1,593,870</u>	<u>170,711</u>	<u>297,271</u>	<u>2,061,852</u>	<u>2,492,748</u>

**Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating lease rentals	16,805	6,622
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	79,385	68,164
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11,575	10,750
- Other services	4,325	4,050
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	21,000	35,000
	<u>206,090</u>	<u>210,586</u>

**8 Charitable activities**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
All from restricted funds:		
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Educational operations	1,431,019	1,585,849
<b>Support costs</b>		
Educational operations	629,747	905,613
	<u>2,060,766</u>	<u>2,491,462</u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**8 Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	251,494	531,036
Depreciation	79,385	68,164
Technology costs	34,368	35,320
Premises costs	91,326	81,094
Legal & professional costs	96,862	99,874
Other support costs	60,262	76,225
Governance costs	16,050	13,900
	<u>629,747</u>	<u>905,613</u>

**9 Staff**

**Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	1,109,123	1,185,573
Social security costs	112,266	124,052
Pension costs	237,885	430,270
	<u>1,459,274</u>	<u>1,739,895</u>
Staff costs - employees	1,459,274	1,739,895
Agency staff costs	134,596	168,360
Staff restructuring costs	-	41,216
	<u>1,593,870</u>	<u>1,949,471</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	19,203	23,121
	<u>1,613,073</u>	<u>1,972,592</u>
<b>Total staff expenditure</b>	<u><u>1,613,073</u></u>	<u><u>1,972,592</u></u>
<b>Staff restructuring costs comprise:</b>		
Severance payments	-	17,288
Other restructuring costs	-	23,928
	<u>-</u>	<u>41,216</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>41,216</u></u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**9 Staff**

**(Continued)**

**Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	9	7
Administration and support	21	30
Management	3	3
	<u>33</u>	<u>40</u>

**Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

**Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £235,195 (2022: £238,349).

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2022: £nil) were reimbursed to 0 Trustees (2022: 0 Trustees).

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

	Remuneration	
	2023	2022
A Mumford (Executive Head and Trustee)	£85,000 - £90,000	£80,000 - £85,000

	Employer's pension contributions	
	2023	2022
A Mumford (Executive Head and Trustee)	£20,000 - £25,000	£15,000 - £20,000

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

#### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business.

The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was not separately identifiable and has been included in the total insurance cost.

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

	Leasehold buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2022	2,467,969	181,962	119,741	78,698	2,848,370
Additions	-	18,148	3,030	-	21,178
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,467,969</u>	<u>200,110</u>	<u>122,771</u>	<u>78,698</u>	<u>2,869,548</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	382,461	165,579	69,972	76,733	694,745
Charge for the year	40,772	16,108	20,540	1,965	79,385
At 31 August 2023	<u>423,233</u>	<u>181,687</u>	<u>90,512</u>	<u>78,698</u>	<u>774,130</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,044,736</u>	<u>18,423</u>	<u>32,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,095,418</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>2,085,508</u>	<u>16,383</u>	<u>49,769</u>	<u>1,965</u>	<u>2,153,625</u>

**13 Debtors**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	51,898	11,412
VAT recoverable	9,523	7,643
Prepayments and accrued income	69,288	80,956
	<u>130,709</u>	<u>100,011</u>

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	27,327	24,412
Other creditors	26,021	22,996
Accruals and deferred income	74,007	90,841
	<u>127,355</u>	<u>138,249</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	599,128	510,000	(808,294)	-	300,834
Pupil premium	-	28,310	(28,310)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	65,695	(65,695)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,042,346	(1,042,346)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	2,720	(2,720)	-	-
Pension reserve	(518,000)	-	(35,000)	194,000	(359,000)
	<u>81,128</u>	<u>1,649,071</u>	<u>(1,982,365)</u>	<u>194,000</u>	<u>(58,166)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	1,049,592	-	(15,012)	-	1,034,580
DfE group capital grants	-	19,365	-	(19,365)	-
Fixed Assets donated to Academy	1,035,916	-	(25,760)	-	1,010,156
Other donations and sponsorships	68,117	-	(38,613)	21,178	50,682
	<u>2,153,625</u>	<u>19,365</u>	<u>(79,385)</u>	<u>1,813</u>	<u>2,095,418</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>2,234,753</u>	<u>1,668,436</u>	<u>(2,061,750)</u>	<u>195,813</u>	<u>2,037,252</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>1,759,408</u>	<u>269,192</u>	<u>(102)</u>	<u>(1,813)</u>	<u>2,026,685</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>3,994,161</u>	<u>1,937,628</u>	<u>(2,061,852)</u>	<u>194,000</u>	<u>4,063,937</u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**15 Funds**

**(Continued)**

The specific purposes that the funds are applied to are as follows:

**General Annual Grant**

The General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust including salary costs, overheads, premises costs and curriculum costs. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

**Other DfE/EFA and government grants**

Other grants include funding received from the DfE and Local Education Authorities for specific purposes.

**Fixed asset fund**

The fixed asset fund includes grants received from the DfE and other sources to finance the purchase of tangible fixed assets.

**Pension reserve**

The pension reserve is the element of the local government pension fund liability attributable to the Academy (see note 17).

**Transfer between funds**

A transfer from unrestricted funds to the restricted funds was necessary to fund capital and revenue expenditure carried out during the year.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	809,266	574,176	(784,314)	-	599,128
Pupil premium	-	31,950	(31,950)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	6,023	(6,023)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	48,352	(48,352)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,316,161	(1,316,161)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	3,622	(3,622)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,118,000)	-	(234,000)	1,834,000	(518,000)
	<u>(1,308,734)</u>	<u>1,980,284</u>	<u>(2,424,422)</u>	<u>1,834,000</u>	<u>81,128</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	1,064,605	-	(15,013)	-	1,049,592
DfE group capital grants	-	5,873	(5,873)	-	-
Fixed Assets donated to Academy	1,061,676	-	(25,760)	-	1,035,916
Other donations and sponsorships	37,864	-	(21,518)	51,771	68,117
	<u>2,164,145</u>	<u>5,873</u>	<u>(68,164)</u>	<u>51,771</u>	<u>2,153,625</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>855,411</u>	<u>1,986,157</u>	<u>(2,492,586)</u>	<u>1,885,771</u>	<u>2,234,753</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>1,541,768</u>	<u>269,573</u>	<u>(162)</u>	<u>(51,771)</u>	<u>1,759,408</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,397,179</u>	<u>2,255,730</u>	<u>(2,492,748)</u>	<u>1,834,000</u>	<u>3,994,161</u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**16 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds: General    Fixed asset £            £</b>		<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,095,418	2,095,418
Current assets	2,026,685	428,189	-	2,454,874
Current liabilities	-	(127,355)	-	(127,355)
Pension scheme liability	-	(359,000)	-	(359,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,026,685</b>	<b>(58,166)</b>	<b>2,095,418</b>	<b>4,063,937</b>

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds: General    Fixed asset £            £</b>		<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,153,625	2,153,625
Current assets	1,759,408	737,377	-	2,496,785
Current liabilities	-	(138,249)	-	(138,249)
Pension scheme liability	-	(518,000)	-	(518,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,759,408</b>	<b>81,128</b>	<b>2,153,625</b>	<b>3,994,161</b>

**17 Pension and similar obligations**

The 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 the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

Contributions amounting to £25,970 (2022: £22,931) were payable to the schemes at the year end 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.

## THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates will be set at 28.68% (currently 23.68%) of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy);
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million;
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £131,591 (2022: £114,565).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The 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 between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees and 22.6% for employers.

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.

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**17 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)**

<b>Total contributions made</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Employer's contributions	91,000	118,000
Employees' contributions	26,000	34,000
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>152,000</b>
<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.30	4.25
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.90	2.95

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7	21
- Females	23.6	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.0	22.3
- Females	25.0	25.3

<b>The trust's share of the assets in the scheme</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Fair value</b>	<b>Fair value</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equities	1,013,000	843,000
Other Bonds	191,000	208,000
Cash	12,000	23,000
Target Return Portfolio	-	2,000
Property	150,000	180,000
Other assets	128,000	91,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>1,494,000</b>	<b>1,347,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £107,000 (2022: £78,000).

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**17 Pension and similar obligations**

**(Continued)**

<b>Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	105,000	317,000
Interest income	(57,000)	(19,000)
Interest cost	78,000	54,000
	<u>126,000</u>	<u>352,000</u>
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b><u>126,000</u></b>	<b><u>352,000</u></b>
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>		<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2022		1,865,000
Current service cost		105,000
Interest cost		78,000
Employee contributions		26,000
Actuarial gain		(144,000)
Benefits paid		(77,000)
		<u>1,853,000</u>
At 31 August 2023		<b><u>1,853,000</u></b>
<b>Changes in the fair value of the trust's share of scheme assets</b>		<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2022		1,347,000
Interest income		57,000
Actuarial gain		50,000
Employer contributions		91,000
Employee contributions		26,000
Benefits paid		(77,000)
		<u>1,494,000</u>
At 31 August 2023		<b><u>1,494,000</u></b>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(124,224)	(237,018)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(19,365)	(5,873)
Investment income receivable	6	(23,094)	(1,107)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	17	14,000	199,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	17	21,000	35,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		79,385	68,164
(Increase) in debtors		(30,698)	(64,176)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(10,894)	49,675
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>		<u>(93,890)</u>	<u>43,665</u>

**19 Analysis of changes in net funds**

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	928,098	(95,617)	832,481
Cash equivalents	1,468,676	23,008	1,491,684
	<u>2,396,774</u>	<u>(72,609)</u>	<u>2,324,165</u>

**20 Long-term commitments**

**Operating leases**

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	160	836
Amounts due in two and five years	-	319
	<u>160</u>	<u>1,155</u>

**THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**21 Related party transactions**

Except as disclosed in note 10, no related party transactions took place in the year ended 31 August 2023.

**22 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 per member for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.