

Company registration number 08375925 (England and Wales)

**THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

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# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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<b>Trustees</b>	B Larkin, Chair J Johnson Ex officio C McKeagney Ex officio M Griffiths Parr
<b>Members</b>	Bishop M Davies Rev D J Roberts D Cunningham C Lawrence
<b>School Governors:</b>	
<b>Foundation Governors</b>	J Johnson (Chair) C McKeagney P Kearney (Vice Chair) R Borman M O'Regan L Liddiard D Miller J Hallas (Chair of Audit Committee)
<b>Parent Governors</b>	P Oates (Chair of Finance and Business Committee) L Martinez
<b>Community Governor</b>	T Gill
<b>Staff &amp; Teacher Governors</b>	A Appleton
<b>Company registration number</b>	8375925
<b>Company name</b>	The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership Trust
<b>Principal &amp; registered office</b>	Old Wrexham Road, Handbridge, Chester, CH64 1TB
<b>Senior management team</b>	C McKeagney - Headteacher M Nordmann - Deputy Headteacher D De Winton - Assistant Headteacher T Wilson - Assistant Headteacher A Kilcoyne - Business Manager
<b>Independent auditor</b>	DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited, Bridge House, Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA14 2UT
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank Plc, 5 St Paul's Square, Liverpool, L3 9SJ
<b>Solicitors</b>	Cheshire West and Chester Council Legal, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## 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 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 Trust operates an academy for students aged 11 to 18, known as The Catholic High School, Chester, serving Cheshire and North Wales. The school has a workplace capacity of 1,128 and a student net capacity based on PAN of 1,020. 824 were on roll in school October 2022.

Offers for places in Year 7 will be made after consideration by the Governing Board of all applications received, together with supporting proof of baptism as set out below where appropriate, and after having regard to the prevailing law, School Admissions Code and DfE Guidelines. All preferences stated on the application form will be considered on an equal basis, subject to the following over-subscription criteria.

Where there are more applications received than there are places available, offers of places in Year 7 will be made subject to the priorities detailed in the school's Admissions Policy, which can be found on the school website.

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

##### Constitution

The academy is a charitable 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 The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law.

The Trust currently only has one member school; The Catholic High School, Chester (the "Academy") The Trust is also known as The Chester Catholic Academies Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

##### Members' liability

Each member of the trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the trust 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 as per The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership's Articles of Association.

##### Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, every Trustee or other officer or auditor of the academy trust shall be indemnified through the provision of The Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement. This is a voluntary arrangement for academies and free schools. It is an alternative to insurance through which the cost of risks that materialise will be covered by government funds. The policy insures the Trustees, Governing Board members, officers, employees and volunteers for the defence costs and legal liability incurred on account of claims and prosecutions against them in their role within the academy trust. The policy also insures them for representation costs in investigations of them by regulators and other authorities.

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

The number of Trustees shall be not less than three, but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

All Trustees shall upon their appointment or election give a written undertaking to the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop to uphold the Object of the academy trust.



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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Subject to Articles 48-49 and 63, the Company shall have the following Trustees:

- a) up to 1 Trustee appointed under Article 50;
  - b) a minimum of 5 Foundation Trustees, appointed under Article 50A;
  - c) any Academy Trustees appointed under Article 51 or Article 52;
  - d) any Principals appointed under Articles 57A or 57B;
  - e) the Executive Principal;
  - f) a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees appointed under Articles 53-56;
  - g) up to 1 Staff Trustee appointed under Article 56A;
  - h) any Additional Trustees, if appointed under Article 61, 61A or 67A;
  - i) any Further Trustees, if appointed under Article 62 or Article 67A; and
  - j) up to 2 Trustees, if appointed by the Secretary of State in accordance with the terms of any of the Relevant Funding Agreements following the provision of a notice by the Company to terminate that Relevant Funding Agreement.
1. The academy trust may also have any Co-opted Trustee appointed under Article 58.
  2. The first Trustees shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006.
  3. Future Trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Trustee to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an academy has not yet been established or the Executive Principal has not been appointed, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

The Members may appoint up to 1 Trustee save that no more than one third of the total number of individuals appointed as Trustees shall be employees of the academy trust (including the Executive Principal and the Principals). Article 50.

The Diocesan Bishop shall appoint a minimum of 5 Foundation Trustees provided that the number of Foundation Trustees and Academy Trustees together shall always be 2 more than the total number of other Trustees (excluding Foundation Trustees and Academy Trustees). Article 50A.

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

All Trustees and Governors, on appointment, receive a briefing from the company secretary and a set list of supporting documentation. The academy trust subscribes to the National Governors Association and Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority governor training provision and as such all Governors and Trustees are entitled to attend any of the Governor training courses provided by Cheshire West and Chester's Governor Training and Development programme.

#### Organisational structure

The Trustees are accountable to external government agencies including the Charity Commission and the Department for Education (including any successor bodies) for the quality of the education they provide and they are required to have systems in place through which they can assure themselves of quality, safety and good practice. Each academy is a Catholic school, designated as such, the Trustees are also accountable to the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury (the "Bishop") to ensure that the academy trust is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with the Canon Law and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church so that at all times the academy trust may serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Trustees have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for all the work of the academy trust and shall, without affecting a Local Governing Board's ability to set its own policies and procedures (where appropriate), retain overall responsibility for the planning of strategy and setting the academy trust's policy.

The academy trust's organisational structure consists of two primary levels; the Governors of The Catholic High School, Chester and the Board of Trustees (the "Trustees") for the Chester Catholic Academies Trust. Within the multi academy trust there may be at some point in the future up to six schools within the Partnership but currently there is only one: The Catholic High School, Chester. Below the school's Governing Board, sits the Leadership Team comprising the Headteacher (Accounting Officer), one Deputy Headteacher and two Assistant Headteachers.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Board of Trustees approve and monitor the strategic direction and objectives of all those schools within the partnership and meet three times per year. The academy trust's Governing Board also approve and monitor the strategic direction and objectives of the academy trust and also monitor its progress towards those objectives.

The Governors have approved a scheme of financial delegation (within the Internal Financial Procedures Manual) that allows budgetary responsibility to be delegated, through the Headteacher, to the lowest level.

Governors are responsible for setting general policy, recommending approval of the strategic plan to the Board of Trustees, adopting and approving the annual plan and budget and making major decisions about the direction of the academy trust including capital expenditure and major staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team control the academy trust at an executive level, implement the policies approved by Governors and report to Governors through the two sub-committees and at the Full Governing Board meetings. The Headteacher and Chairman of the Governing Board also attend the Trustee Board meetings as Trustees where the Head presents her report formally. The Pay Committee deals with any decisions on pay related matters.

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

The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership aims to maximise the achievement of every pupil at the school and recognises the value of a well-motivated and capable body of teaching and support staff in the achievement of this. The Governing Board has established a whole school pay policy, monitor the implementation and outcome(s) of the arrangements and review the policy and its operation every year. The pay policy seeks to ensure that all staff are properly rewarded for their contribution towards this shared goal. The school pay policy has been developed to comply with current legislation and the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

The local Governing Board has established a Pay Panel with fully delegated authority to make pay decisions based on the recommendations of the Headteacher.

#### Trade union facility time

##### **Relevant union officials - None**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period 0	Full-time equivalent employee number 0
<i>Percentage of time</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
0%	0
1-50%	0
51%-99%	0
100%	0

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

	<i>Figures</i>
Provide the total cost of facility time	£0
Provide the total pay bill	£0
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0%

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0%
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# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

This Supplemental Agreement recognises the desire of the parties to foster the development and provision of high quality education in particular at the academy trust and in the area which it serves and the parties acknowledge the commitment being made by each to this aim. Recognising the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop's respective strategic roles in the provision of education through its family of Catholic schools both in relation to the academy trust and more generally (which role has been acknowledged in but is not derived from the Education Acts, as defined pursuant to the Education Act 1996), the Secretary of State acknowledges the value of:

- a) maintaining a good working relationship between the parties at all levels; and
- b) the support (financial and otherwise) provided to the academy trust by the Trustees and Diocesan Bishop.

The parties also acknowledge that an additional characteristic of the academy trust is that it is a Catholic Multi Academy and that each academy is to be conducted as a Catholic school in furtherance of the object of the academy trust set out in the Articles. Each academy will be governed by the academy trust. The academy trust shall have regard to (but for the avoidance of doubt shall not be bound by) any guidance as to the governance of academies that the Secretary of State may publish.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objects and aims

##### Principal activities

The requirements of an academy are as set down in Section 1A (1) of the Academies Act 2010:

- a) it is an independent school;
- b) it has a curriculum satisfying the requirements of section 78 of EA 2002 (balanced and broadly based curriculum);
- c) it provides education for pupils of different abilities;
- d) it provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated;
- and
- e) it is not an alternative provision academy.

##### Characteristics of a Catholic Multi Academy

In addition to above, the parties acknowledge that an additional characteristic of the academy trust is that it is a Catholic Multi Academy and that each academy is to be conducted as a Catholic school in furtherance of the object of the academy trust set out in the Articles:

- a) to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Catholic schools designated as such ("the Academies") which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and shall be conducted as Catholic schools in accordance with the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church from time to time and the doctrinal, social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church from time to time and following the directives and policies issued by the Diocesan Bishop to ensure that the formation, governance and education of the Academies is based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and at all times serving as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ; and
- b) to promote for the benefit of individuals living within Cheshire and North Wales who have need by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time activities in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said individuals.

##### Objectives, strategies and activities

The Catholic High School, Chester has a clearly defined set of values and beliefs, which sum up their raison d'être and underpin all their activities and school ethos. They are proud of their school values and are committed to delivering them consistently. The ethos of the school derives from the joint commitment of the Governors, school staff, students and their parents that:



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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At The Catholic High School, Chester they are 'Faithful to Christ' when they:

- treat each other with respect;
- work hard at all times; and
- take pride in their school community.

The positive overall ethos provides all members of the school community with a safe and respected school, and is paramount in obtaining a successful learning environment. The aim is to inspire improvement and achievement within others whilst setting very high standards for students and staff.

The main objectives and achievements for the period ended 31 August 2023 are summarised as follows:

- Gospel values are explicit and visible throughout the school involving students. There was a review of Catholic Life of the school and collective worship. The school made greater use of the chapel through links with parishes and primary schools and a collective worship programme was developed to be utilised by all.
- Excellence in the quality of education – developing a high quality, ambitious curriculum that is appropriate to the school context and learners. This was achieved through a review of curriculum mapping across all areas in order to show progression to ensure the curriculum offers depth and is sequenced to build upon knowledge.
- Behaviour and attitudes to learning are exemplary in and outside the classroom. This was achieved by ensuring safeguarding is secure and all staff trained appropriately, that the Behaviour for Learning Strategy for all stakeholders was embedded and the attendance of all students was focussed upon through the Achievement for All programme.
- Students are prepared for life beyond school. This was achieved by developing the role of the PDL in order to review the PHSE curriculum and have a programme of Careers Guidance throughout all year groups. The profile of healthy lifestyles and mental wellbeing across the school for students and staff has been increased and the aim, post pandemic, remains to develop further the extra-curricular programme in order to support the development of students' characters.
- There is a clear and ambitious vision promoted by all leaders which is underpinned through shared values, policies and practice. This was achieved by establishing a clear procedure for line management where all staff teachers and non-teachers are held accountable for their role in school and supported by a secure Performance Management structure which develops strengths whilst supporting and monitoring those underperforming. The school also ensures all staff have opportunities to develop and extend their profession in a supportive environment, ensuring that all achieve a work life balance.
- The schools action secure substantial improvement in progress for all students evidenced through data reports which are produced after tracking to identify underperformance in all year groups. This is further underpinned with the launch of the Achievement for All programme to reflect upon tackling underperformance.
- Effective procurement and deployment of resources. This included a review of staffing to ensure maximum value for money, departmental spending contributes to securing outcomes for all students and systems and processes remain at the highest standard in order to be prepared for external and internal scrutiny.

#### Public benefit

The key public benefit delivered by The Catholic High School, Chester is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom. The Governors confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Strategic report

#### Summary School report 2022—23

At the start of this academic year, we had just appointed a new Business Manager who was had no operational responsibilities on SLT which enabled clear focus throughout the working day on financial matters of the school. The Finance team had been reduced to two on the advice of the ESFA in 2019 and it was imperative that clear roles were defined within that team. A new Curriculum Leader for Maths was appointed as that was deemed an area where improvement was needed. The focus throughout the year was the celebrations planned throughout the year to coincide with our 50<sup>th</sup> year. The promotional aspects of the celebration linked to positive press coverage which would increase numbers. The year culminated with a celebration mass in Chester Cathedral with the whole school. The school's focus was SEN as again that was an area which needed to be improved and all teachers and teaching assistants were given specific CPD based on identifying how to support students in the classroom. The school identified several groups of students to be tutored using the government tutoring scheme. This did improve grades from the mock results, especially in Maths. Our Progress 8 figure was in line with the year previous as was our VA for Key Stage 5. Attendance was an issue earlier in the year with high PA numbers, however, the appointment of an Attendance Officer, funded partly through PP, has proven to be a success and attendance had risen by the end of the year in all key groups.

Using OFSTED's judgement areas of quality of education; personal development; behaviour and attitudes; and the school's leadership and management, this summary of the school's achievements over the last year is presented under those headings with further comment regarding the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. In addition, there is a report on the Catholic life of the school.

#### Quality of education (including examination results and the quality of teaching and learning)

'Senior leaders and staff share high expectations for all pupils' Ofsted 2021

It became apparent after Work Scrutiny and Learning Walks, that SEN needed to be an area which was closely monitored and the SENCO was involved with all the monitoring visits across the school and fed back to governors in Quality of Education meetings. The focus meant that vast improvements were made with teachers' practice as was evidenced in the books. There was still an area for those students who were missing lessons and this was an area for departments to work on, however, provision mapper has been an excellent advancement to look at interventions which students may need. The introduction of Blue Sky has been successful as CPD can be tracked and all Performance Management can be identified. The work on cross curricular activities has been delayed, apart from English and Maths teams working closer together and identifying Parents' Nights in order to prepare students and parents for exams. This year governors have worked closely with RE department in preparation for the coming inspection. In order to ensure accountability and aim for higher grades, there were two exam review meetings with SLT and governors and a mock exam day for Year 11 and Year 13 which was held with parents. It was a success and the mocks proved to be more successful than the outcomes in Summer 2023 results. Whilst the results of Summer 23 were in line with previous year, there were lots of concerns from teaching staff about the marking. The number of requests for reviews of marking was higher than ever and it was a record number of exams remarked and results changed. There is an area of concern in achieving higher grades, especially in Key Stage 5 and high ability boys at Key Stage 4 are not securing the higher grades. The gap between Non PP and PP had widened, although that was because of a number of PA students.

#### Personal development

'Leaders have strengthened the personal development curriculum to address pupils' social and emotional needs' Ofsted 2021

The school provides for students' personal development through classroom activities, off-timetable days and the wide range of extra-curricular activities. There is a PHSE programme which after two years of revising, the school are satisfied with, although Sixth Form needs work with relevant activities. Curriculum Lead for PHSE arranged a vast range of speakers and workshops for students throughout 22-23 and we have partnerships with Airbus and Leonardo hotels. The Chester School Partnership has enabled students to be part of an Eco Day at Chester Zoo and Technology workshops at the weekend. The library was able to host lots of different events, including author visits and students running World Book Day for Primaries.



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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

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All trips became available this year with visits to Berlin, Italy and Austria and Music Nights throughout the year. The majority of Parents' Evenings were held in school. The school was able to have a garden party in celebration of the King's Coronation in the grounds which was an excellent success.

Careers education and guidance runs throughout Years 8-13, with particular emphasis on transitions and options during Year 9, 11 and in the Sixth Form. Independent and impartial advice is secured through a Careers mentor on site part time. The school has committed to reaching the Gatsby benchmarks for good practice as this area of our work continues to develop, however, this year there were certain amendments which the school will work on through our work with The Pledge... It has had an amazing impact. The Student Council are more dominant throughout the school which is excellent, they were able to be consulted upon uniform changes and Behaviour Policy. We were able to have transitions days for Year 5, 6 and 11 and we had summer school for Year 5 and 6 students. The Parent Forum started up again this year which led to more consultations on aspects of school life.

#### Behaviour and attitude

'Leaders and teachers have raised their expectations of pupils' behaviour and pupils consistently follow the routines that leaders have put in place' Ofsted 2021

In the most recent OFSTED inspection (Nov 2021) the report demonstrated that that inspector believed that there was a strong culture of Safeguarding at the school and parents felt their children were safe at school. Classroom behaviour is consistently good because of good or outstanding teaching and because the school's classroom behaviour policy is very well understood by all members of the school community. As well as recording incidents of any low-level disruption teachers award a score in every lesson for attitude to learning and award achievement points for excellent work. These are reported home to parents by email. There was one PEX this year which did not go to appeal and we had the lowest rate of suspensions in the last five years. School safeguarding policies are updated each year and approved by Governors. Our designated safeguarding lead is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors have a named 'Safeguarding' Governor who meets with the lead in school to review policy and practice. Ofsted believed that leaders provided staff with a comprehensive range of Safeguarding training. There are alternative courses offered for those who school believes would benefit from a more vocational programme and that has been highly successful. Furthermore, our areas where we offer Emotional Restoration or Behavioural restoration have been celebrated for the intervention programmes which we run. The school has an excellent Health and Safety record. This area, which includes the co-ordination of educational visits, is led by the Deputy Head. To ensure health and safety standards are met, all educational visits are planned through the on line Evolve portal and, for any residential or more hazardous activity such as the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, externally assessed prior to approval.

#### Leadership and management

'Pupils value the sense of community within the school' Ofsted 2021

This includes the leadership of the Headteacher, the school leadership team, curriculum and pastoral leaders, and the school Governors. The Headteacher sets the tone for the entire school through her vision for an inclusive, Catholic learning community that treats all its members with respect. The school has a clear ethos which stems from its establishment as a Catholic school, the guardianship of this ethos by the Governors, and the Head's personal commitment to seeing this maintained and developed. The Senior Leadership Team works hard to ensure that opportunities to learn and to fulfil potential are open to all students. The curriculum is kept under continual review and debated with both the SLT and the Governing Board. The school has a team of Curriculum Leaders of Learning who are responsible for standards in subject departments. They lead qualified, specialist teachers who are dedicated to providing 'the best Catholic education for all'. This last year, SLT have had to take on a number of areas of school improvements in line with our School Improvement Plan. We did not achieve the CIF bid which has impacted upon our budget forecast. Leaders aim to work with the diocese in order to secure funding.

#### The Catholic Life of the School

The school is founded by and is part of the Catholic Church, and this is fundamental to every aspect of school life. The Catholic principle that education should be based upon the development of the individual in order for them to go into society and act as Christ would have wanted: putting others before themselves, dominates throughout the school. We regularly celebrate mass in school and our blessed with our local priest who celebrates masses with us and mentors our Oxbridge group. Our school works with our local parishes and our full time chaplain works with families who are at crisis point. In 2022, a new chapel was built for our Sixth Form building and our curriculum has been redesigned focusing on Catholic Social Values.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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It will be noted that in every classroom, there is a prayer station and assemblies should now follow a clear structure and be classed as Liturgical prayer. There is greater emphasis in the school to worship through song and Music needs to play a bigger part within the school as it worships. This was demonstrated in Cathedral in June as there was a school and staff choir. There had not been a Roman Catholic Mass in the Cathedral for many decades and it was highly praised by the community, especially the behaviour of the children which was excellent.

#### Headteacher's Comment:

2022 -23, the school still felt the impact the Covid with a high rate of staff sickness from Covid. We have had some long term absences which impacted on the SEN team. The results were not what we wanted to be, especially with higher grades, however, moving forward there is to be a tighter monitoring of Pastoral and Academic. There needs to be more accountability on all staff to achieve results and the new Behaviour Policy addresses the passive learner in order to move students on. The new Teaching and Learning enables for closer monitoring of students' books and teachers' feedback. The 50<sup>th</sup> celebration was an excellent success and the school has formed the Alumni group utilising social media more. This will enable the school to network more to support the students. This was achieved by using podcasts from past students and we had speakers in in order to offer careers advice to students. The governors and trustees have supported the school throughout the year which support and challenge and take an active role in our school community, engaging in many events and supporting us with reviews.

#### Key performance indicators

The academy trust met its aims and objectives within the income received for the period. The effective management of cash flow and scheduling of capital expenditure meant that the academy trust's cash balances were never exceeded by commitments and the balance remained in surplus.

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. With the academy trust reporting a deficit for 2022-23 and setting a deficit budget for 2023-2024, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements on the basis that it is working with support from the ESFA to return to a surplus reserves position. However, discussions are in place with Shrewsbury Diocese to transfer the academy into a larger multi-academy trust. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

#### **Financial review**

##### Financial risk management objectives and policies

##### Risk management

The Trustees have a responsibility to assess the strategic risks to which the academy trust is exposed and are collating information provided in Governor Reports to develop a risk management register to ensure the steps are taken to mitigate risks.

An organisational risk register is maintained by the Business Manager. This register includes educational risks such as the school not achieving the planned educational outcomes, maintenance and improvement on previous examination results, whole or partial building loss, financial and operational risks, including budget risks, health and safety reviews and safeguarding students. Full reports have been submitted regularly to the Finance Audit and Business Committee directly. Some significant risks such as public and employee liability are covered by the academy trust's Risk Protection Arrangement membership.

The financial and operational effects of the virus and the control measures relating to the virus have not affected the principal risks and uncertainties facing the academy trust during the reporting period. Existing control and monitoring measures continued although additional costs and reduced self-generated income has been realised but.

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants or from Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority for the part funding of the ASD provision. This income and its use is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, total income was £9,505,000 and expenditure was £9,906,000. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £401,000.



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The academy trust receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with the Charities statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', 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 charge over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

At 31 August 2023 the carried forward restricted general funds (excluding the pension deficit of £Nil) is £Nil (2022: £229,000). The restricted fixed asset funds of £83,000 (2022: £66,000) are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objectives of the academy.

The surplus on unrestricted funds carried forward is £139,000 (2022: £254,000).

#### Reserves policy

##### Purpose

The purpose of the reserve policy for The Catholic High School, Chester is to ensure the stability of the academy trust's organisational operations and to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital.

##### Definitions and goals

##### Restricted reserves

Restricted reserves are represented by the main income for the academy trust which is General Annual Grant (GAG), other grant contributions or donations that are received for a specific project or purpose. These funds are restricted for the use according to the funding agreements or donors instructions.

There is a percentage carry forward of GAG restricted funds which is calculated at the year end and can be used for future years mainly for capital and a small percentage for operational purpose.

The review will encompass the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The level of reserves will be determined by Governors annually and can fluctuate depending on operational needs but the Governors have determined that the academy trust should aim to have a minimum of £200,000 held in reserves.

The reason for this level of reserve is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

Following the recovery from deficit, all reserves will be reported and reviewed regularly at management meetings and expenditure from reserves approved by the Governors.

Following a review of the most recent Condition Improvement Fund Bid, there is an expectation for an increased capital contribution for future bids in order to increase the likelihood of success, therefore the strengthening budget position will allow the school to contribute and therefore increase the likelihood of a successful outcome.

##### Unrestricted funds

These are made up of the academy trust's activities for generating funds, investment income and other donations which are expendable at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance to achieve the objectives of the academy trust.

The academy trust is confident that it will meet the required pension contributions from its projected income without significantly impacting on its planned level of charitable activity, it continues to calculate its 'free' or general unrestricted reserves without setting aside designated reserves to cover the pension liability.

These funds will be reviewed regularly by the Governors and Finance & Business Committee and are obtained through one-off donations and are generally built up over time from fund generating activities and investments.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Designated funds

These are unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Governors for a particular purpose.

These funds are reviewed regularly and approved by the Governors and Finance & Business Committee; they are obtained by designated funds from the unrestricted funds.

#### Use of reserves

##### 1. Identification of appropriate use of reserve funds

The Governors and staff will identify the need for access to reserve funds and confirm that the use is consistent with the purpose of the reserve as described in this policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for any shortfall, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required and replenished.

##### 2. Authorisation of use of reserves

Authorisation to use reserves of any kind will be made by the Governors and the Finance & Business Committee, at the next available meeting the approval should be noted in the minutes.

##### 3. Reporting and monitoring

The Governors are responsible for ensuring that the funds are maintained and used only as described in this policy. Upon approval for the use of these funds, the academy trust will maintain a record of the use of the funds. The Finance & Business Committee should regularly monitor the progress of the reserves.

#### Investment policy and performance

The academy trust has no realisable investments as at 31 August 2023.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the academy trust are as follows:

- Financial – the academy trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last period 90% of the academy trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.
- Failure in governance and/or management – the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the academy trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.
- Reputational – the continuing success of the academy trust is dependent on continuing to attract students in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.
- Safeguarding and child protection – the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of recruitment, selection and monitoring of all staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and behaviour management.
- Staffing – the success of the academy trust is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.
- Fraud and mis-management of funds – the role of Responsible Officer hasn't been fulfilled during the academic year due to availability. In the absence of this activity full reports had been submitted regularly to the Finance Business Committee directly.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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- The academy trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. Elements of risk management typically included in Governor reports have been collated into a risk register which is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

#### **Fundraising**

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

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

##### Future developments

For the coming financial year, the academy trust School Improvement Plan sets out to ensure:

- Gospel values are explicit and visible throughout the school and are used with the students.
- Excellence in the quality of education.
- Behaviour and attitudes to learning are exemplary in and outside the classroom.
- Students are prepared for life beyond school.
- There is a clear and ambitious vision promoted by all leaders which is underpinned through shared values, policies and practice.
- The school's actions secure substantial improvement in progress for all students.
- Effective procurement and deployment of resources.

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

There are no funds or assets held for safe custody and segregation on behalf of any custodian trustees.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

This trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees as the company directors, on 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**B Larkin**  
**Chair of Trustees**

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## 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 Chester Catholic Academies Partnership 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 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 Chester Catholic Academies Partnership 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 of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
B Larkin, Chair	5	5
C McKeagney ex officio	5	5
M Griffiths-Parr	4	5
J Johnson	5	5

As per the ESFA ATH 2022 The Finance Audit and Business Committee has responsibility for audit. The audit committee is a sub-committee of the local Governing Board. The audit committee operates within the FAB Committee and is there to address controls and safeguards, procedures, planning and oversight of these functions. The finance committee has a more complex role in overseeing budgeting, financial performance and monitoring of the trust including monitoring the organisational risk register.

Attendance at the FAB Committee in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Johnson	4	4
C McKeagney	4	4
J Hallas (Chair Audit)	2	2
P Oates (Chair Finance)	4	4
M Griffiths-Parr	3	4
M O'Regan	3	4
D Miller	2	4



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Governance reviews**

As an established academy trust of several years standing, The Catholic High School Chester completed its annual governance review but took account of the restrictions imposed by the Covid19 Pandemic. A report was shared from the Chair of Governors during the final meeting of the summer term 2023 setting out what the local Governing Board had completed to fulfil their role despite the Covid Restrictions.

Succession continued within the Governing Body with the Chair and Vice-chair re-elected in their existing positions for a further year. The Governing Body has also appointed, with the help of the Diocese, a new Foundation Governor to replace one whose term had expired, a new Community Governor and had a process in place for the election of two new Parent Governors once the school had reopened after lockdown

A skills audit was undertaken by all on the local governing board to ensure the Governing Body had the right skills to effect decision-making and lead the school as it came out of the Pandemic. To support the school further in this respect, the ESFA offered and the school accepted, a Covid19 Review which amongst other matters, will make any recommendations necessary to improve governance further. The review happened in July 2022 and we are still awaiting their final report.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

Governors and trustees complete declaration of interest forms at the first governors meeting of each year stating any conflict of interest and for committee meetings declare any pecuniary interests arising.

#### **Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy 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 academy'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 has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Ensuring Financial governance and oversight – this has been informed by the work of the external auditor; the review of protocols by the responsible officer – fulfilled by a Governor and maintenance and monitoring of the risk register.
- The Governing Board and Trustees approve the budget each year and consider the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the academy remains a 'going concern'. Financial reviews and accurate forecasting has led to a series of curriculum and subsequent structural reviews The Governors are well informed and receive appropriate support for their role.
- Maximising income - The academy explores every opportunity to generate income through the hire of facilities and targeted bids for capital investment. During this period the academy had a contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to hire the Sports Hall for £60,532 along with regular bookings for the Astro Sports Pitch, Sports Hall and rooms within the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Building.

#### **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and expenditure is monitored against the spending plan. The risk register is maintained and amended in light of new information. This has influenced the ongoing curriculum model review and subsequent staffing changes with respect to funding levels forecast over the next five years.

#### **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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy 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 CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The system of internal control has been in place in The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership Trust for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

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

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

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the school's governing board 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 academy trust has established an audit committee, appointed by the board, that is combined with the Finance, Audit and Business Committee as per the AFH 2020. The audit committee's role includes directing the trust's programme of internal scrutiny and reporting to the board on the adequacy of the Trust's financial and other controls and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from JDH Business Services Ltd. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. The 2022/23 internal scrutiny programme covered the following areas:

- Review of the current risk register and risk management
- Adequacy of budgetary control information and monitoring
- Review of monthly bank reconciliations and procedures
- Testing of non-payroll expenditure and procurement compliance
- Review of income internal controls
- Review and testing of payroll internal controls

On an annual basis, the reviewer reported to the board of trustees, through the Finance, Audit and Business Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the executive managers within the academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

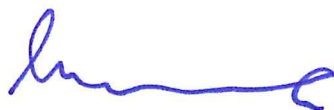
## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

***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 Business Manager and the Local Board of Governors and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6 December 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:



.....  
**B Larkin**  
Chair of Trustees



.....  
**C McKeagney**  
Accounting Officer



## **THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

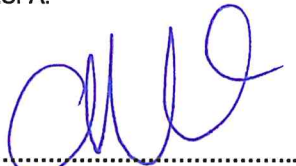
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023***

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As accounting officer of The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy 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 academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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



.....  
**C McKeagney**  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 6 December 2023

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The trustees (who are also the directors of The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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:

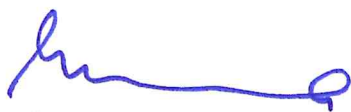
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting 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 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**B Larkin**  
Chair of Trustees

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership 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 academy 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.

Whilst the academy trust is closing the financial year with surplus reserves carried forward, the budget forecast indicates that the academy trust will be operating with deficit reserves within 12 months from the date of signing the accounts. The academy trust is actively working with ESFA to review expenditure and identify savings to return the academy trust to surplus reserves moving forward. As such, the going concern basis is deemed appropriate.

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

### Other information

The 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.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **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 academy 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 academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **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.

.....  
**Candice Beynon FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of**

**DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited**

**Chartered Accountants**

**Statutory Auditor**

Bridge House

Ashley Road

Hale

Altrincham

WA14 2UT

Date .....



# **THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP 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 2 October 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 Chester Catholic Academies Partnership 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 Chester Catholic Academies Partnership and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership 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 Chester Catholic Academies Partnership and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 February 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 academy trust's income and expenditure.

## THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP 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:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

#### **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.

.....  
**DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited**  
**Reporting Accountant**

Date:.....



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	3,243	73	3,316	3,311
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	5,576	-	5,576	5,349
Other trading activities	5	613	-	-	613	561
<b>Total</b>		<u>613</u>	<u>8,819</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>9,505</u>	<u>9,221</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	515	9,330	61	9,906	9,449
<b>Total</b>	6	<u>515</u>	<u>9,330</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>9,449</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		98	(511)	12	(401)	(228)
Transfers between funds	17	(213)	208	5	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	321	-	321	2,665
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(115)</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>(80)</u>	<u>2,437</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		254	(18)	66	302	(2,135)
Total funds carried forward		<u>139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>302</u>

## THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2022		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	3,266	45	3,311
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	5,349	-	5,349
Other trading activities	5	561	-	-	561
<b>Total</b>		<u>561</u>	<u>8,615</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>9,221</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	7	388	8,977	84	9,449
<b>Total</b>	6	<u>388</u>	<u>8,977</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>9,449</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		173	(362)	(39)	(228)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(33)	33	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	2,665	-	2,665
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		173	2,270	(6)	2,437
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		81	(2,288)	72	(2,135)
Total funds carried forward		<u>254</u>	<u>(18)</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>302</u>

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		83		66
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	12	4		4	
Debtors	13	6,647		6,887	
Cash at bank and in hand		341		579	
		<u>6,992</u>		<u>7,470</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,610)		(3,744)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			3,382		3,726
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			3,465		3,792
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(3,243)		(3,243)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			222		549
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		-		(247)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>222</u>		<u>302</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17				
- Fixed asset funds			83		66
- Restricted income funds			-		229
- Pension reserve			-		(247)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>83</u>		<u>48</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17		139		254
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>222</u>		<u>302</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 6 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....  
**B Larkin**  
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 08375925 (England and Wales)

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20		(233)		15
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Capital grants from DfE Group		73		45	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(78)		(78)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(5)		(33)
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(238)		(18)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			579		597
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			341		579

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

### **1 Accounting policies**

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

The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### **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.

Whilst the academy trust is closing the financial year with surplus reserves carried forward, the budget forecast indicates that the academy trust will be operating with deficit reserves within 12 months from the date of signing the accounts.

The academy trust is actively working with ESFA to review expenditure and identify savings to return the academy trust to surplus reserves moving forward.

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 academy trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

##### Grants

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

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

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

### **1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

#### Sponsorship income

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

#### Donations

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

#### Other income

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

#### Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the 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 academy 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 which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 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, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold improvements	4 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years

The academy trust occupies land and buildings held by Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees on a 125 year lease. Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees are the legal owner of the land and buildings and the academy does not have control over the premises. The land and buildings are not recognised on the balance sheet.

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 academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

##### 1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

##### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

###### Financial assets

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

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



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 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 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

#### 1.10 Taxation

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

#### 1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

#### 1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

#### 1.13 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the academy trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### Critical areas of judgement

The Trustees have considered the accounting treatment of land and buildings utilised by the Trust and, in particular, the occupied property that is held under church supplemental agreements. The freehold titles to the properties occupied under the supplemental agreements are held by Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees. Under church supplemental agreements the Academy Trust is permitted occupancy of the properties with a notice period of two years, and no rental is payable under these arrangements. The Trustees do not consider that the Academy Trust is able to exercise control over the properties and therefore the properties do not meet the definition of an asset of the Trust and have not been recognised as fixed assets in these financial statements. The market value of such donated facilities has not been recognised in these financial statements as the Trustees consider that no reliable measure is available. Any expenditure on such properties is included in other costs in the statement of financial activities.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Capital grants	-	73	73	45
Other donations	-	3,243	3,243	3,266
	-	3,316	3,316	3,311

Other donations includes £3,242,736 being the notional rental donation from the Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees for use of the land and buildings occupied by the academy.

### 4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	4,877	4,877	4,680
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	153	153	176
- Teachers' pay grant	-	-	-	11
- Teachers' pension grant	-	32	32	30
- Supplementary grant	-	185	185	-
- Others	-	62	62	234
	-	5,309	5,309	5,131
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	267	267	208
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	10
<b>Total funding</b>	-	5,576	5,576	5,349

The academy trust received £267,000 (2022: £208,000) from the local authority in the year, being £221,000 (2022: £207,000) High Needs funding, £5,000 (2022: £1,000) being pupil premium income, £34,000 (2022: £Nil) being household support fund and £7,000 (2022: £Nil) home for pupils from Ukraine.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to grants in the year.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	94	-	94	115
Catering income	194	-	194	158
Parental contributions	315	-	315	263
Other income	10	-	10	25
	<u>613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>561</u>

### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	3,482	55	597	4,134	3,834
- Allocated support costs	1,671	3,694	407	5,772	5,615
	<u>5,153</u>	<u>3,749</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>9,449</u>

The school occupies premises owned by the Diocese of Shrewsbury under a Memorandum of Understanding. The accounts include a donation and rental expense of £3,242,736 relating to the estimated market value of the benefit enjoyed by the school from its use of the premises.

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7	6
- Other services	3	2
Operating lease rentals	3	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	61	84
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	12	45
	<u>86</u>	<u>140</u>

### 7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	384	3,750	4,134	3,834
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	131	5,641	5,772	5,615
	<u>515</u>	<u>9,391</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>9,449</u>

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Charitable activities	(Continued)	
Analysis of costs	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	3,482	3,316
Staff development	9	5
Depreciation	55	75
Educational supplies and services	126	125
Examination fees	87	72
Other direct costs	375	241
	<u>4,134</u>	<u>3,834</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	1,671	1,549
Depreciation	6	9
Technology costs	99	62
Maintenance of premises and equipment	226	175
Cleaning	11	13
Energy costs	130	103
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	3,283	3,266
Insurance	20	21
Security and transport	44	25
Catering	131	140
Interest on defined benefit pension	12	45
Legal costs	2	38
Other support costs	114	146
Governance costs	23	23
	<u>5,772</u>	<u>5,615</u>

Rent and rates expenditure includes £3,242,736 being the notional rental expense to the Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees for use of the land and buildings occupied by the academy.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 8 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	3,790	3,371
Social security costs	370	327
Pension costs	858	1,014
Staff costs - employees	5,018	4,712
Agency staff costs	135	138
Staff restructuring costs	-	15
	5,153	4,865
Staff development and other staff costs	9	5
Total staff expenditure	5,162	4,870
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	15

#### Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	59	48
Administration and support	74	50
Management	4	5
	137	103

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

### **8 Staff**

**(Continued)**

#### **Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £468,000 (2022: £420,000).

### **9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

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

C McKeagney (Headteacher)

Remuneration: £90,001 - £95,000 (2022: £85,001 - £90,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £20,001 - £25,000 (2022: £20,001 - £25,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no travel and subsistence payments were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2022: £Nil).

### **10 Trustees' and officers' insurance**

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2022	100	165	64	329
Additions	36	28	14	78
	<u>136</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>407</u>
<b>At 31 August 2023</b>				
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	63	155	45	263
Charge for the year	25	22	14	61
	<u>88</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>324</u>
<b>At 31 August 2023</b>				
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2023	<u>48</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>83</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>37</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>66</u>

The trustees have considered the accounting treatment of land and buildings utilised by the trust and, in particular, the occupied property that is held under church supplemental agreements. The freehold titles to the properties occupied under the supplemental agreements are held by Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees. Under church supplemental agreements the academy trust is permitted occupancy of the properties with a notice period of two years, and no rental is payable under these arrangements. The trustees do not consider that the academy trust is able to exercise control over the properties and therefore the properties do not meet the definition of an asset of the trust and have not been recognised as fixed assets in these financial statements. The market value of such donated facilities has not been recognised in these financial statements as the Trustees consider that no reliable measure is available. Any expenditure on such properties is included in other costs in the statement of financial activities.

### 12 Stock

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Catering stock	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

### 13 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	25	10
VAT recoverable	20	63
Other debtors	6,486	6,486
Prepayments and accrued income	116	328
	<u>6,647</u>	<u>6,887</u>

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Debtors		(Continued)	
Amounts included above which fall due after more than one year:		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
Other debtors		3,243	3,243
		<u>3,243</u>	<u>3,243</u>
14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
Trade creditors		104	-
Other taxation and social security		87	81
Other creditors		3,377	3,370
Accruals and deferred income		42	293
		<u>3,610</u>	<u>3,744</u>
15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
Other creditors		3,243	3,243
		<u>3,243</u>	<u>3,243</u>
16 Deferred income		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:			
Creditors due within one year		16	266
		<u>16</u>	<u>266</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022		266	19
Released from previous years		(266)	(19)
Resources deferred in the year		16	266
		<u>16</u>	<u>266</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023		16	266
		<u>16</u>	<u>266</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding school trips income in advance of trips taking place in 2022-23.

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	229	4,877	(5,314)	208	-
Pupil premium	-	153	(153)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	279	(279)	-	-
Other government grants	-	267	(267)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	3,243	(3,243)	-	-
Pension reserve	(247)	-	(74)	321	-
	<u>(18)</u>	<u>8,819</u>	<u>(9,330)</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	2	-	(2)	-	-
DfE group capital grants	36	73	(42)	-	67
Capital expenditure from GAG	19	-	(13)	5	11
Private sector capital sponsorship	9	-	(4)	-	5
	<u>66</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>83</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>48</u>	<u>8,892</u>	<u>(9,391)</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>83</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	254	613	(515)	(213)	139
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>302</u>	<u>9,505</u>	<u>(9,906)</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>222</u>

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### 17 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy.

The pension value as at 31 August 2023 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset of £20,000 as at 31 August 2023. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been capped at an asset ceiling value on the basis that the academy trust has minimum funding requirements existing for future service. This has reduced the pension asset/liability to £nil accordingly. Although a pension asset is arising, this does not create an immediately realisable asset that can be expended for the specific purposes of the pension fund.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objectives of the academy.

Unrestricted funds are those funds to which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees. The transfer of £213,000 from unrestricted revenue funds to restricted GAG funds has been made to cover the over-spend in the year.

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	198	4,680	(4,649)	-	229
Pupil premium	15	176	(191)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	10	(10)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	67	275	(309)	(33)	-
Other government grants	-	208	(208)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	3,266	(3,266)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,568)	-	(344)	2,665	(247)
	<u>(2,288)</u>	<u>8,615</u>	<u>(8,977)</u>	<u>2,632</u>	<u>(18)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	3	-	(1)	-	2
DfE group capital grants	36	45	(78)	33	36
Capital expenditure from GAG	20	-	(1)	-	19
Private sector capital sponsorship	13	-	(4)	-	9
	<u>72</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>(84)</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>66</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>(2,216)</u>	<u>8,660</u>	<u>(9,061)</u>	<u>2,665</u>	<u>48</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>81</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>(388)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>(2,135)</u>	<u>9,221</u>	<u>(9,449)</u>	<u>2,665</u>	<u>302</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	83	83
Current assets	139	6,853	-	6,992
Current liabilities	-	(3,610)	-	(3,610)
Non-current liabilities	-	(3,243)	-	(3,243)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>222</u>



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General    Fixed asset £'000    £'000		Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	66	66
Current assets	254	7,216	-	7,470
Current liabilities	-	(3,744)	-	(3,744)
Non-current liabilities	-	(3,243)	-	(3,243)
Pension scheme liability	-	(247)	-	(247)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>302</b>

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £92,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £81,000) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

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

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

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £579,000 (2022: £543,000).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.3% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

<b>Total contributions made</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Employer's contributions	224	172
Employees' contributions	63	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	287	221
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70	3.75
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25
	<hr/>	<hr/>

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7	21.2
- Females	24.8	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.7	22.1
- Females	25.3	25.5

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are as set out below:

#### Sensitivity analysis

Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2023	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	73
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	135
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	68
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	6

#### The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2023 Fair value £'000	2022 Fair value £'000
Equities	1,770	1,801
Bonds	1,123	1,176
Property	477	478
Cash and other liquid assets	34	221
Total market value of assets	3,404	3,676

The actual return on scheme assets was £(521,000) (2022: £(295,000)).

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	286	471
Interest income	(161)	(64)
Interest cost	173	109
Total operating charge	298	516

# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2022		3,923	6,370
Current service cost		286	471
Interest cost		173	109
Employee contributions		63	49
Actuarial gain		(1,003)	(3,024)
Benefits paid		(38)	(52)
At 31 August 2023		3,404	3,923
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2022		3,676	3,802
Interest income		161	64
Actuarial loss		(682)	(359)
Employer contributions		224	172
Employee contributions		63	49
Benefits paid		(38)	(52)
At 31 August 2023		3,404	3,676

The pension value as at 31 August 2023 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset of £20,000 as at 31 August 2023. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been capped at an asset ceiling value on the basis that the academy trust has minimum funding requirements existing for future service. This has reduced the pension asset/liability to £nil accordingly.

20 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities		2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	Notes	(401)	(228)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(73)	(45)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	62	299
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19	12	45
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		61	84
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		240	(342)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(134)	202
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(233)	15



# THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	579	(238)	341

### 22 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	4	81
Amounts due in two and five years	10	31
	<u>14</u>	<u>112</u>

#### Other contractual commitments

At 31 August 2023 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	3,243	3,243
Amounts due in two and five years	3,243	3,243
	<u>6,486</u>	<u>6,486</u>

The academy recognises expenditure of £3,243,000 (2022: £3,243,000) for the deemed market rent of the school property it occupies. A liability for two years rental, being the notice period required to relinquish occupation, has been recognised in creditors.

### 23 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

### 24 Members' liability

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

## **THE CHESTER CATHOLIC ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP**

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

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

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#### **25 Agency arrangements**

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students on behalf of the ESFA. All amounts held as at 31 August 2023 are recorded within other creditors.

In the year to 31 August 2023, funding received from the ESFA was £7,399 (2022: £6,495) and the amount distributed was £1,200 (2022: £5,350), resulting in a balance held at 31 August 2023 of £5,889 (2022: £3,255) after taking into account the 5% admin charge..