

**Accrington St Christopher's
Church of England High School**
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Reference and Administrative Details | 2 |
| Trustees' Report | 4 |
| Governance Statement | 13 |
| Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance | 17 |
| Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities | 18 |
| Independent Auditor's Report to the Members | 19 |
| Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity | 23 |
| Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account | 25 |
| Balance Sheet | 26 |
| Statement of Cash Flows | 27 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 28 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2024

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Members | Mr D Anderson Father D Arnold Mrs L E Hargreaves Mr P Jones Mr F Whitehead (Chairman) Blackburn Diocese representative x4 |
| Trustees | Mr D Anderson: PCC (resigned 30/09/24) Fr David Arnold: Area Dean Mrs E Barker: Parent Mr A Cran: DBE foundation Miss H Davies: Staff Mrs L E Hargreaves: PCC Mr R Jones: Staff Mr J Leaver: Parent Mrs J Roberts: DBE foundation Mr T Smith: Staff (appointed 01/11/23, resigned 31/08/24) Mrs D Taylor: PCC Mr F Whitehead: PCC Mrs C Wightman: DBE foundation Mr D Young: Staff |
| Secretary | Mrs S Eckersley (Business Manager) appointed 01/01/24 |
| Senior Leadership Team | Canon R Jones (Headteacher) Mrs Alison Spence (Deputy Headteacher) Mr R O'Doherty (Assistant Head) Mrs S Parkinson (Senior Assistant Head) resigned 31/12/23) Mr D Allen (Assistant Head) Miss H Davies (Assistant Head/Director of Sixth Form) Mrs L Williamson (Assistant Head) Mrs Stacey Eckersley (Business Manager) |
| Principal and Registered Office | Queens Road West Accrington Blackburn BB5 4AY |
| Company Registration Number | 07728029 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Independent Auditor

CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
19/21 Church Street
Blackburn
BB6 7QN

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson Solicitors
Ground Floor
3 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BN

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report including a strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy for students aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area local to the Academy. It has a pupil capacity of 1,245 and had a roll of 1,289 in the school census in October 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2.

1.2 Members' Liability

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

1.3 Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal company practice, the Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides £10,000,000 of cover subject to the Risk Protection Agency (RPA) rules (note 9).

1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Articles of Association state at point 12 more detail regarding the arrangements in place for the Academy. A summary of these are:

Appointment of Members

- (a) The signatories to the Memorandum who are: The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education; The Area Dean of Accrington; The Incumbent;
- (b) the Parochial Church Council of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew, and Great Harwood St John; The Parochial Church Council of Knuzden St Oswald and Rishton St Peter and St Paul;
- (c) one person appointed by the Secretary of State, in the event that the Secretary of State appoints a person for this purpose;
- (d) the Chairman of the Governors; and
- (e) any person appointed under Article 16 of the Articles of Association.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (continued)

Appointment of Governors

The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of the Academy and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The Articles of Association states that:

The Members shall appoint a minimum of 11 Foundation Governors (of whom three shall at the time of their appointment be eligible for election or appointment as Parent Governors) as follows:

- (a) two shall be appointees of the Diocesan Board of Education;
- (b) six shall be appointees of the Area Dean by members of the Church of England proposed by the Parochial Church Councils of the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Accrington Christ the King, Accrington Christ Church, Accrington St John with Huncoat St Augustine, Altham with Clayton-le-Moors, Baxenden St John, Church Kirk St James, Oswaldtwistle Immanuel and All Saints and Oswaldtwistle St Paul;
- (c) one shall be the appointee of The Parochial Church Council of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew, and Great Harwood St John together with The Parochial Church Council of Knuzden St Oswald and Rishton St Peter and St Paul;
- (d) The Incumbent and the Area Dean or his/her nominee who shall be the Corporate Governors Ex-Officio.

The Members may appoint 3 Staff Governors through such process as they may determine and the Headteacher shall be treated for all purposes as being an Ex Officio Governor. The term of office for any governor (other than Co-opted Governors under Article 59 of the Articles of Association) shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Headteacher. The Area Dean and the Incumbent shall be Ex Officio Governors. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of governor, any governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

1.5 Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.

New governors receive a St Christopher's CE High School Governors' Handbook which outlines the role and expectations of a governor. Governors are also required to sign a Code of Conduct. Induction training and support from the Clerk to the Governing Body and company secretary is given to all new governors. A Service Level Agreement is in place with the Local Authority, and they make training opportunities available to all governors. A link governor is appointed from within the Governing Body to monitor training needs. All governors are issued with a copy of the latest edition of the Accounts Direction, Academy Handbook as well as the Department for Education's Governors' Handbook.

1.6 Organisational Structure

The overall aim of the Governing Body is to agree the strategic and operational framework within which the Academy will be managed by the Headmaster and to monitor and hold the Headmaster (and senior leadership team) to account for the achievement of the Governing Body's strategic aims and objectives for the Academy.

The Headmaster (Accounting Officer) and senior leadership team together constitute the leadership team of the school. The overall purpose of the Governing Body is to lead the school to provide the best possible education for the pupils. This involves, in particular:

- setting the school's vision and strategic aims
- monitoring and evaluating performance
- ensuring that the school is accountable to pupils, parents, and the community it serves and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1.6 Organisational Structure (continued)

Governors offer a strategic role in the financial management of the Academy and the Headmaster provides vision, leadership, and direction for the school.

As the Accounting Officer the Headteacher is responsible for the management of the school budget under delegated powers agreed by the Governing Body supported by the Business Manager.

1.7 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel is carried out by the Governors' Pay Review Committee.

1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions or operations of the Academy. The Academy however works closely with the Blackburn Diocese, the Local Authority, school networks such as Lancashire Academies Network, The Church of England Education Office and with parents to further the principal activities of the Academy.

1.9 Trade Union Facility Time

The Governing Body acknowledges the need to publish the data relative to the amount and cost of facility time within the Academy Trust. It is acknowledged that the Trade Unions play an important role in the workplace and there are considerable benefits for both employers and employees when the organisation and the union work together. To this end, the Academy facilitates the time of a Trade Union Representative for representation within the Academy. Therefore, the cost on the Academy is £nil in the period from 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024.

Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objects and Aims

Mission statement

St Christopher's is a Church of England Academy where pupils and staff work together, in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in daily lives, with Christ as our example. Within our strong Christian, Anglican context, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual, and physical development of our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community, and preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experience of their adult life.

Foundation scripture

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1, verse 3 (NIV)

St Christopher's CE High School, a high achieving and over-subscribed 'outstanding' (SIAMS 2016-17) school, has provided high quality education for the Church going families of East Lancashire for over sixty years. We are proud of the enviable reputation that we have earned in all areas of education – cultural, social, physical, and of course spiritual. Our faith in the love of God informs all that we do. St Christopher's is first and foremost a Church school.

We strive to provide a genuinely holistic education, preparing boys and girls to tackle the ever-greater demands facing young people in the 21st century. The talented and able teaching staff are dedicated to combining academic excellence with a richness of opportunity beyond the classroom. We are hugely ambitious academically for our pupils, ensuring that they secure the results to continue their education at the best universities or on training courses which will prepare them for careers of significance and worth.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

2.1 Objects and Aims (continued)

The wide range of activities ensures that each pupil can grow and develop wherever their interests may lie. The many educational trips, expeditions and tours, our popular Duke of Edinburgh programme, highly regarded music department, and nationally recognised eco group, all give further evidence of what really is a complete curriculum.

Visitors to St Christopher's often comment on the sense of community which is such a distinctive feature of the school. We work hard to ensure that every child is known, supported, and challenged. These are all bold claims, so the last word should go to one of our former students –

"I am still not sure what I want to be but after studying at St Christopher's I know who I want to be."

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities

St Christopher's opened in 1958 and is an 'inspirational' 11 - 18 Church of England Academy (SIAMS 2023).

Our caring community is based on a close partnership between staff, parents, pupils and governors and we foster strong links with local parishes and clergy, six of whom serve as School Chaplains. We emphasise pupils' whole development, offering high standards of teaching in a range of courses to cater for all abilities, a wide extra-curriculum and making a priority of spiritual nurture, with religious worship and teaching at the centre of school life. High academic achievement over the last five years, with eight out of ten Year 11 pupils gaining good GCSE grades in English and mathematics. Our most recent Ofsted Inspection Report (March 2022) confirmed the judgement of the previous full inspection (December 2016) and commented on record levels of attainment and judged pupils' personal development, behaviour, and the Sixth Form as 'Outstanding'.

Worship

Worship at St Christopher's is central to the life and wellbeing of the school. Each school day begins with an act of worship within the Anglican tradition. A Chaplaincy Team supports our worship and pastoral work, each year group having its own chaplain through the seven years at St Christopher's. The school fosters links with local parishes and Christian organisations.

We try to establish caring attitudes and lasting values through worship and work done in the classroom, as well as, on a more practical level, supporting charitable appeals.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from RE and collective worship in all schools. In the context of our Church School, there is an emphasis on Christian education throughout the school and we expect all pupils to participate fully in our Christian community.

Attendance

St Christopher's has been one of the best attended secondary schools in Lancashire for many years. The attendance dipped slightly in 2023/24 with an average attendance for the whole school was 94%, which remains significantly above the national average.

Admissions

In 2023 for 2024 entry, there were 830 applications for 195 places, 248 at first preference, 290 second preferences and 292 at third preference. The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered 19 places under criterion 1 (Children in care); 0 children under 1b (Children with special social or medical circumstances); 28 children under criterion 2 (Pupils from All Saints, Clayton-le-Moors and St James Altham); 148 children under criterion 3 (attendance at a Christian Trinitarian Church, 44 of whom had a sibling already in school). No children under any other criteria were offered places.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Mission Statement

St. Christopher's is a Church of England High School where pupils and staff work together in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in our daily lives, with Christ as our example. Within our strong Christian, Anglican context we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual, and physical development of all our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community, and preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of their adult life.

Our caring community is based on a close partnership which:

- is ordered and disciplined
- develops the pupils' knowledge of and commitment to the Christian faith and fosters a sympathetic approach to other religions and cultures
- recognises that each member of the school community is an individual with specific needs and strengths
- fosters mutual respect and concern for others
- values the contribution made by each member of the school community
- encourages and celebrates positive achievement
- offers pupils equal access to all areas of the curriculum
- gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to gain the best possible qualifications
- encourages the development of personal and inter-personal skills
- promotes self-confidence, self-discipline, a sense of responsibility and a generosity of spirit.

2.3 Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We confirm that all our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit. The definition of Public Benefit as defined by FRS 102 as: *"an entity whose primary objective is to provide goods or services for the general public, community or social benefit and where any equity is provided with a view to supporting the entity's primary objectives rather than with a view to providing a financial return to equity providers, shareholders or members."*

Trustees of St Christopher's CE High School are committed to:

- Providing high quality education; and
- making information available and reporting on the school's impact to the school community, Government, and relevant funding bodies.
-

Strategic report

3. Achievements and Performance

St Christopher's CE High School continues to provide high quality education. We are proud of the enviable reputation that we have earned in all areas of education – academic, cultural, social, physical, and of course spiritual.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

3.1 Key Performance Indicators

GCSE

| Measure | 2019 | 2020 * | 2021 * | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Strong pass (9-5) in English and mathematics (%) | 52 | 54 | 60 | 48 | 56 | 41 |
| Standard pass (9-4) in English and mathematics (%) | 72 | 78 | 81 | 70 | 80 | 64 |
| Attainment 8 score | 52.4 | 55.7 | 54.9 | 49.7 | 50.6 | 45.0 |
| Progress 8 score | +0.09 | +0.55 | +0.35 | -0.16 | -0.10 | -0.24 |

A-level

| Measure | 2019 | 2020 * | 2021 * | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|------|------|
| A* - B grades (%) | 49 | 65 | 67 | 59 | 44 | 43 |
| A* - C grades (%) | 84 | 93 | 86 | 85 | 75 | 71 |
| A* - E grades (%) | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 98 |

Student destination figures remain significantly above the national average. ('All pupils move on to appropriate, high-quality destinations at the end of their time at school' – Ofsted 2022)

3.2 Going Concern

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

4. Financial Review

4.1 Operating and Financial Review

The Academy has its own St Christopher's Financial Management Handbook in place which details all systems and procedures that are required of the Trust as detailed in the ESFA Handbook. This includes amongst others a Statement of Internal Control and Schemes of Delegation. Governors on a regular basis question and challenge information forwarded to them. This financial year, Governors have accepted the academy system of internal control and that this has been in place for the whole of the accounting period to date. The following Controls Assurance Statement has been in place:

This statement relates to the financial summaries for Accrington St Christopher's C E High School for the period 2021/22 and the Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Academy:

- keeps proper accounting records during the year which will disclose, with reasonable accuracy and at any time, the financial position of the Academy, have been drawn up in accordance with the Consistent Financial Reporting guidelines, and will enable it to prepare an annual income and expenditure statement that complies with Government guidelines
- Maintains and operates an effective system of internal control to safeguard all the resources delegated, granted, or otherwise entrusted to the Academy and ensure they are used cost effectively.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

4.2 Reserves Policy

As in previous years the Academy's reserve policy has considered the risk of fluctuations of grant income and spending needs. The governors' policy for reserves has always been not to carry forward large reserves but to utilise funding received in school in-year to benefit pupils. However, following a number of years in a deficit position the new policy is to create a sustainable budget model, which enables a surplus generating budget whilst allowing for capital expenditure and ensures a safeguard against future unforeseen events.

4.3 Investment Policy

The Academy has not undertaken any investments this year due to funding being committed to capital improvements. However, governors have provided clear guidance for the Headteacher and the Business Manager regarding the objectives, goals and guidelines of the assets that will be invested by the Academy in the course of any one academic/financial year. The Headmaster (Accounting Officer) will evaluate the needs of the organisation to determine if the funds will be needed to support teaching & learning. Therefore, all available funds will be invested as appropriate and reported to the Finance & Resources Committee.

The primary investment objective of the assets placed under management is to provide for the preservation of capital to support the needs of the Academy and be brought forward into everyday use dependent upon cash flow needs of the organisation. Based on the investment objectives stated above, the specific objectives for these assets shall be to achieve a competitive interest rate on the cash deposits. In general, the cash shall be invested in short term investment opportunities offered by the bank's Relationship Manager, with an average duration of less than one year.

This should be invested only in Lloyds Bank in discussion with the School Relationship Manager, free from risk of loss, price fluctuation and instantly accessible unless otherwise approved by governors. All transactions undertaken on behalf of the Academy shall be for the sole benefit of the Academy.

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular, those relating to the operational areas of the site and facilities, to teaching and to finances. The governors refer to the school's risk register as recommended in the Academy Financial Handbook. The current perceived risks remain as:

- Reduction of pupil numbers
- Cost of staffing to further increase beyond budgeted norms i.e., pensions, salary increases

The system of internal control has been developed and is co-ordinated by the Headmaster. It aims to provide as much assurance as is reasonably possible (not absolute assurance) that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorised and recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or can be detected promptly. Governors' review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal controls are informed by:

- regular scrutiny of financial and other performance monitoring data
- regular reports from the Business Manager and other managers to the Governing Body
- the most recent report of the Academy's Responsible Officer (RO)
- the most recent self-evaluation of the internal controls as discussed by the Finance & Resources committee annually.

Governors are, therefore, satisfied that the internal control systems in operation at the Academy during the period are adequate and effective.

The Academy has undertaken work during the period to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the Academy's assets and reputation. The Finance & Resources Committee undertakes a review of the risks using a Risk Register detailing the areas to which the Academy is exposed.

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

The Risk Register identifies systems and procedures, including specific, preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the Academy. The internal controls are then implemented, and the Finance & Resources Committee will review their effectiveness and progress annually against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the Finance & Resources Committee also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the Academy. The risk register is maintained at the Academy level, and it is reviewed at least annually and referred to more regularly when necessary.

4.5 Risk Management

The governors have reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The risk register identifies key risks, the likelihood of these risks occurring, their potential impact on the Academy and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate those risks. The governors are of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

4.6 Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities as detailed in 'Charity Fundraising: a guide to trustee duties CC20' and ensures that all fundraising activities are agreed and monitored at senior management level in compliance with relevant legal rules. Recognised standards are applied to ensure that fundraising is open, honest, and respectful, protecting the public from undue pressure to donate. The Governors agree to comply with their legal duty to:

- Act in your charity's best interest
- Deal with conflicts of interest
- Manage your charity's resources responsibly
- Implement appropriate financial controls
- Manage risks
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Take appropriate advice when you need to, for example when buying or investing
- Take responsibility for any charity's fundraising
- The Academy fundraising activities carried out by the school which include the 'Friends' must comply with all relevant policies and procedures.
- All monies raised via fundraising activities will be for the stated purpose of the appeal and will comply with the school's stated mission and purpose.
- All personal information collected by the school is confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party without consent.
- No person directly or indirectly employed by or volunteering for the school shall accept commissions, bonuses, or payments for fundraising activities on behalf of the organisation.
- No general solicitations shall be undertaken by telephone or door-to-door.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they may be detrimental to the reputation of the Academy.
- All Governors, volunteers, casual and permanent employed staff are responsible for adhering to the Academy's procedures.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they will expose the organisation to significant financial risk.
- Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Charity Commissions guide CC20

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2024

5. Plans for Future Periods

The academy intends to implement the areas for development as detailed in full within the Academy Improvement Plan 2024-25. However, the three key priorities facing the Trustees are:

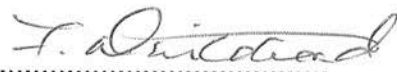
- 1.) Continue to improve the financial position of the school, to further reduce the deficit position and generate reserves, whilst also dealing with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
- 2.) Ensuring that pupils and students are in receipt of an excellent standard of education, especially given the ongoing impact, disruption and uncertainty created by the COVID pandemic.
- 3.) Equally, we need to ensure that staff are equally well supported to ensure their wellbeing to help achieve the above objectives. Special consideration should be given to those impacted by salary changes, reduction in staff (including the leadership team) and impacted through staff absences.

6. Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 26th November 24 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mr F Whitehead
Chair of Trustees

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7.1 Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headmaster, 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 Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School 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.

7.2 Governance

Governors are allocated to committees by the Chair & Vice Chair based on the findings of a skills audit and termly Committees are:

- Steering Committee (including Audit);
- Finance & Resources (including Building & Land);
- Curriculum, Standards and Expectations Committee;
- Wellbeing Committee;
- Ethos Committee

As required or annual:

- Admissions Committee;
- Staffing Review & Appointments;
- Pay Review Committee;
- Pay Appeals Committee;
- Staff Discipline/Dismissal Committee;
- Staff Discipline/Dismissal Appeals Committee;
- Grievance Committee;
- Pupil Discipline and Appeal Committees.

Attendance during the year for all meetings of the Governing Body was 67.4% - please see information below.

Members of the Academy Trust shall comprise:

1. Incumbent of the Parish of Accrington Christ the King (as for 3.)
2. Representative of Blackburn Diocese (x3)
3. Father David Arnold, Area Dean of Accrington
4. Mrs Linda Hargreaves of Parochial Church Council of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew and Great Harwood St John and The Parochial Church Council of Knuzden St Oswald and Rishton St Peter and St Paul
5. Mr Frank Whitehead, Chair of Governors, Appointed by the PCC
6. Mr David Anderson, Appointed by the PCC (resigned 31/08/2024)
7. Mr Peter Jones, Appointed by the DBE

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7.2 Governance (continued)

| Governor/Trustee | Appointed by | Meetings attended (FGB & standing committees) 2023/24 | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | FGB Possible | FGB Attended | Total Possible | Total Attended | % Attendance |
| Fr David Arnold | The Area Dean of Accrington | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 85.7 |
| Mrs. Catherine Wightman | Foundation Governor | 3 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 100 |
| Mr Alex Cran | Foundation Governor | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 83.3 |
| Mrs Denise Taylor | Appointed by Parochial CC | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 44.4 |
| Mr Frank Whitehead | Appointed by Parochial CC | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 76.9 |
| Mr David Anderson | Appointed by Parochial CC | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 70 |
| Mrs Linda Hargreaves | Appointed by Parochial CC | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 90 |
| Mrs Emma Barker | Parent Governor | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 44.4 |
| Mr John Leaver | Parent Governor | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 50 |
| Mrs Jo Roberts | Parent Governor | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 55.5 |
| Miss Helen Davies | Staff Governor | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 77.7 |
| Mr Richard Jones | Staff Governor | 3 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 81.3 |
| Mr Trevor Smith | Staff Governor | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 33.3 |
| Mr William Young | Staff Governor | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 37.5 |

The composition of the Academy Trust has remained stable during this period. No notable challenges have arisen throughout the year requiring action other than that covered in the terms of reference for the standing committees.

The work of the trust board has been strengthened through the use of a comprehensive audit of skills and the promotion of appropriate training, including that for safeguarding.

Trustees consider objective data available in the public domain and specifically that from the Department for Education. This allows the performance of the school to be judged alongside that for similar schools/academies and for schools nationally. Governors exercise commendable caution when considering evidence produced solely by the academy.

7.3 Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer the Headmaster has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- **Challenge:** Governors regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.
- **Compare:** Governors monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools using the Government's benchmarking facility.
- **Consult:** Governors consult appropriate stakeholders especially pupils and parents through regular questionnaires, about the services which the school provides.
- **Compete:** Securing competition to ensure that goods and services are purchased in the most economic, efficient, and effective manner to meet the needs of the school sharing purchasing power with other schools and buying consortiums as appropriate and use of tendering and quotes for procurement of goods and services.

7.4 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 the Academy Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School for the year ended 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

7.5 Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Shard Business Services.

The reviewer'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.

On a two times per year basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and 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.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2024

7.7 Review of Effectiveness

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

- Scrutiny from the Board;
- Scrutiny from the Finance & Resources Committee;
- Responsible Officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the Business Manager within the Academy Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

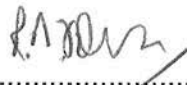
The trust has put in place systems of internal control to ensure the management letter points from 2022 and 2023 have been rectified or have a plan in place to ensure it is dealt with.

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 Finance and Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12.01.24 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr F Whitehead
Chair of Trustees



Mr R Jones
Accounting Officer

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School


Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31st August 2024

As Accounting Officer of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



.....
Mr R Jones
Accounting Officer

Date: 17.11.24

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report and Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure. In preparing these financial statements, 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 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 26th November 24 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr F Whitehead
Chair of Trustees

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31st August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

(Continued)

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Year Ended 31st August 2024

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the trustees report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' 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 trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

(Continued)

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

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

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.

The extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations was as follows:

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy from our knowledge and experience of the academy sector.
- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and skills to identify non compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations through making enquiries of management and reviewing legal correspondences.
- we reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- we assessed the risk of management override of controls, including through journal testing and other adjustments for appropriateness.
- we reviewed the reports of the internal auditor appointed by the school in the accounting period.
- we reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with laws and regulations.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non compliance. Also the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Use of our report

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

.....
Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date:

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31st August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School during the year from the 1st September 2023 to the 31st August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1st September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Obtaining evidence including those tests relevant to the circumstances of the Academy Trust as prescribed in Section 4 of the Guide For External Auditors section of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the ESFA; and
- Planning and performing any additional tests we deemed necessary to express an opinion on regularity.

(Continued)

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2024

Conclusion

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

.....
Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date:

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st August 2024

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted General Funds £000 | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|---|--------|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 2 | 31 | 157 | 1,061 | 1,249 | 221 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations | 3 | - | 8,488 | - | 8,488 | 7,950 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 372 | - | - | 372 | 292 |
| Investments | 5 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | | 403 | 8,645 | 1,061 | 10,109 | 8,463 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Academy trust's educational operations | 6/7 | 403 | 8,286 | 84 | 8,773 | 8,112 |
| Total | | 403 | 8,286 | 84 | 8,773 | 8,112 |
| Net income | | - | 359 | 977 | 1,336 | 351 |
| Transfers between funds | 15 | - | (35) | 35 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 15, 26 | - | (73) | - | (73) | 867 |
| Net movement in funds | | - | 251 | 1,012 | 1,263 | 1,218 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 15 | - | (291) | 9,268 | 8,977 | 7,759 |
| Total funds carried forward | 15 | - | (40) | 10,280 | 10,240 | 8,977 |

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

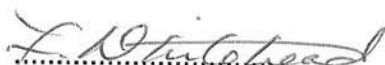
Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st August 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £000 | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|---|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 9,537 | | 9,268 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 914 | | 221 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 976 | | 634 | |
| | | <u>1,890</u> | | <u>855</u> | |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 13 | <u>(775)</u> | | <u>(592)</u> | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,115</u> | | <u>263</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 10,652 | | 9,531 |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year | 14 | | (102) | | (102) |
| Net assets excluding pension liability | | | <u>10,550</u> | | <u>9,429</u> |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 26 | | (310) | | (452) |
| Net assets including pension liability | | | <u>10,240</u> | | <u>8,977</u> |
| Funds of the Academy Trust: | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | 15 | 10,280 | | 9,268 | |
| Restricted income fund | 15 | 270 | | 161 | |
| Pension reserve | 15 | <u>(310)</u> | | <u>(452)</u> | |
| Total restricted funds | | | 10,240 | | 8,977 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 15 | | - | | - |
| Total funds | | | <u>10,240</u> | | <u>8,977</u> |

The financial statements on pages 25 to 50 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on the 26th November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr F Whitehead
Chair of Trustees

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07728029

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31st August 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | 19 | (366) | 231 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | 21 | 708 | 76 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | 20 | - | (62) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | <u>342</u> | <u>245</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September 2023 | | 634 | 389 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August 2024 | 22/23 | <u>976</u> | <u>634</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is Queens West Road, Accrington, Blackburn, BB5 4AY. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 4.

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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.

Going concern

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

Income

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

• Grants receivable

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 when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- **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 goods or services.

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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.

- **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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Leasehold buildings | over 125 years' straight line |
| Furniture and equipment | 25% straight line |
| Computer equipment | 33% straight line |
| Motor vehicles | 25% straight line |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

The buildings were revalued in the prior period. The building valuation represents the value of leasehold assets as per the ESFA valuation carried out in 2016 by a RICS approved valuer. In this valuation the leasehold buildings were valued at £9,775,000. The assets were valued using a depreciated replacement cost model and are to be depreciated over a 125 year period (note 11).

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 28.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 13 and 14. 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.

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 Part 11, Chapter 3 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.

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.

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. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy 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 operating income/(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 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.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, 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 31st March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

2 Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital grants | - | 1,061 | 1,061 | 80 |
| Trips and other non public funds | - | 157 | 157 | 137 |
| Other donations | 31 | - | 31 | 4 |
| | <u>31</u> | <u>1,218</u> | <u>1,249</u> | <u>221</u> |

Income from donations and capital grants was £1,249,000 (2023 - £221,000) of which £31,000 (2023 - £4,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £157,000 (2023 - £137,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £1,061,000 (2023 - £80,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£1,061,000 (2023 - £80,000) of government grants were received for capital and maintenance works.

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| DfE/ESFA grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 7,450 | 7,450 | 7,213 |
| Other DfE Group grants: | | | | |
| Pupil Premium | - | 138 | 138 | 123 |
| Teacher Pay grant | - | 103 | 103 | - |
| Teacher Pension grant | - | 116 | 116 | 59 |
| Rates grant | - | 43 | 43 | 37 |
| MSAG Grant | - | 200 | 200 | 84 |
| Supplementary Grant | - | - | - | 170 |
| Other grants | - | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>8,055</u> | <u>8,055</u> | <u>7,701</u> |
| Other Government grants | | | | |
| Local Authority grants | - | 388 | 388 | 215 |
| Other Government Grants | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>388</u> | <u>388</u> | <u>215</u> |
| Exceptional Government funding | | | | |
| Coronavirus Catch-up Premium | - | 33 | 33 | 30 |
| Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding | - | 12 | 12 | 4 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>34</u> |
| Total | <u>-</u> | <u>8,488</u> | <u>8,488</u> | <u>7,950</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £8,488,000 (2023 - £7,950,000) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £8,488,000 (2023 - £7,950,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£8,488,000 (2023 - £7,950,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

4 Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 24 | - | 24 | 22 |
| Catering income | 269 | - | 269 | 256 |
| Sale of educational goods and services | 79 | - | 79 | 14 |
| | <u>372</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>372</u> | <u>292</u> |

Income from other trading activities was £372,000 (2023 - £292,000) of which £372,000 (2023 - £292,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

5 Investment income

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Short term deposits | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

Investment income was £nil (2023 - £nil) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

6 Expenditure

| | Staff Costs £000 | Non Pay Expenditure Premises £000 | Other Costs £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|--|------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Academy Trust's educational operations | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 5,998 | 80 | 652 | 6,730 | 5,693 |
| Allocated support costs | 1,103 | 402 | 538 | 2,043 | 2,419 |
| | <u>7,101</u> | <u>482</u> | <u>1,190</u> | <u>8,773</u> | <u>8,112</u> |

£403,000 (2023 - £296,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £8,286,000 (2023 - £7,732,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £84,000 (2023 - £84,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating lease rentals | 66 | 36 |
| Depreciation | 84 | 84 |
| Fees payable to the auditor for: | | |
| Audit | 4 | 4 |
| Other services | 13 | 6 |

No additional transactions have taken place under Section 5.2 of the 2023 Academies Financial Handbook which require additional disclosure.

7 Charitable activities

| | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Direct costs – educational operations | 6,730 | 5,693 |
| Support costs – educational operations | 2,043 | 2,419 |
| | <u>8,773</u> | <u>8,112</u> |

Analysis of direct costs

| | Educational operations £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Direct staff costs | 5,998 | 5,998 | 5,080 |
| Learning resources | 175 | 175 | 165 |
| Examination fees | 133 | 133 | 128 |
| School trips and visits | 166 | 166 | 181 |
| Depreciation | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Other direct costs | 178 | 178 | 59 |
| Total direct costs | <u>6,730</u> | <u>6,730</u> | <u>5,693</u> |

Analysis of support costs

| | Educational operations £000 | Total 2024 £000 | Total 2023 £000 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Support staff costs | 1,103 | 1,103 | 1,423 |
| Depreciation | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Premises costs | 399 | 399 | 446 |
| Catering costs | 257 | 257 | 218 |
| Other support costs | 273 | 273 | 321 |
| Governance costs | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Total support costs | <u>2,043</u> | <u>2,043</u> | <u>2,419</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

8 Staff

(a) Staff costs

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Staff costs during the period were: | | |
| Wages and salaries | 5,235 | 4,841 |
| Social security costs | 544 | 489 |
| Pension costs | 1,164 | 1,116 |
| | <u>6,943</u> | <u>6,446</u> |
| Agency staff costs | 122 | 34 |
| Apprenticeship Levy | 9 | 9 |
| Staff restructuring costs | 27 | 14 |
| | <u>7,101</u> | <u>6,503</u> |
| Staff restructuring costs comprise: | | |
| Redundancy payments | - | - |
| Severance payments | 27 | 14 |
| Other restructuring costs | - | - |
| | <u>27</u> | <u>14</u> |

(b) Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 2 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

| | No. |
|--------------|----------|
| £0 - £25,000 | 2 |
| | <u>2</u> |

(c) Special severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £27,000 (2023: £14,000). Individually, the payments were £13,000 and £14,000.

(d) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year, and the full-time equivalents, was as follows:

| | 2024 Number | 2024 Full-time equivalent | 2023 Number | 2023 Full-time equivalent |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Teachers | 76 | 68 | 70 | 61 |
| Administration and support | 76 | 53 | 72 | 52 |
| Management | 10 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| | <u>162</u> | <u>131</u> | <u>148</u> | <u>119</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

8 Staff (continued)

(e) Higher paid staff

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

| | 2024 No. | 2023 No. |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 8 | 2 |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | 2 | 1 |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>11</u> | <u>4</u> |

(f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 2. 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 £1,015,880 (2023: £872,000).

9 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from 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 role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Mr R Jones (Principal and trustee): | |
| Remuneration | £125,000 - £130,000. (2023: £120,000 - £125,000) |
| Employers' pension contributions | £30,000 - £35,000. (2023: £25,000 - £30,000) |
| Miss H Davies (staff trustee): | |
| Remuneration | £60,000 - £65,000. (2023: £55,000 - £60,000) |
| Employers' pension contributions | £10,000 - £15,000. (2023: £10,000 - £15,000) |
| Mr W Young (staff trustee): | |
| Remuneration | £60,000- £65,000. (2023: £20,000 - £25,000) |
| Employers' pension contributions | £5,000-£10,000. (2023: £0 - £5,000) |
| Mr T Smith (staff trustee): Appointed 01/11/23, Resigned 31/08/24 | |
| Remuneration | £45,000- £50,000. (2023: £nil - £nil) |
| Employers' pension contributions | £5,000-£10,000. (2023: £nil - £nil) |

During the year ended 31st August 2024, no travel and subsistence expenses were paid to trustees (2023: £374 to 1 trustee).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 27.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

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 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.

11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Leasehold Land and Buildings £000 | Furniture and Fixtures £000 | Computer Hardware £000 | Total £000 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Cost | | | | |
| At 1 st September 2023 | 9,967 | 74 | 20 | 10,061 |
| Additions | 344 | 3 | 6 | 353 |
| At 31 st August 2024 | 10,311 | 77 | 26 | 10,414 |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 st September 2023 | 711 | 67 | 15 | 793 |
| Charged in period | 79 | 3 | 2 | 84 |
| At 31 st August 2024 | 790 | 70 | 17 | 877 |
| Net book values | | | | |
| At 31 st August 2023 | 9,256 | 7 | 5 | 9,268 |
| At 31 st August 2024 | 9,521 | 7 | 9 | 9,537 |

12 Debtors

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trade debtors | 6 | 12 |
| VAT recoverable | 62 | 130 |
| Other debtors | 805 | 39 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 41 | 40 |
| | 914 | 221 |

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trade creditors | 357 | 111 |
| Other taxation and social security | 115 | 175 |
| Other creditors | 244 | 213 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 59 | 93 |
| | 775 | 592 |

Year Ended 31st August 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other Creditors | 102 | 102 |
| | <u>102</u> | <u>102</u> |

Included within other creditors is a balance of £102,000 (2023 - £102,000) owing to the Diocese repayable in full over a 12 year period with the final repayment in August 2034. No interest is charged on the balance outstanding.

The total repayable after more than five years is £102,000.

15 Funds

| | Balance at 1 st September 2023 £000 | Income £000 | Expenditure £000 | Gains, Losses and Transfers £000 | Balance at 31 st August 2024 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 263 | 7,450 | (7,306) | (35) | 372 |
| Pupil Premium | - | 138 | (138) | - | - |
| Teacher Pay grant | - | 103 | (103) | - | - |
| Teacher Pension grant | - | 116 | (116) | - | - |
| Rates grant | - | 43 | (43) | - | - |
| MSAG Grant | - | 200 | (200) | - | - |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants | - | 50 | (50) | - | - |
| Local Authority grants | - | 388 | (388) | - | - |
| Other restricted funds | (102) | 157 | (157) | - | (102) |
| Pension reserve | (452) | - | 215 | (73) | (310) |
| | <u>(291)</u> | <u>8,645</u> | <u>(8,286)</u> | <u>(108)</u> | <u>(40)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| DfE/ESFA capital grants | - | 1,034 | - | (291) | 743 |
| Other capitalised assets | 12 | 27 | (5) | (18) | 16 |
| ESFA building valuation | 9,256 | - | (79) | 344 | 9,521 |
| | <u>9,268</u> | <u>1,061</u> | <u>(84)</u> | <u>35</u> | <u>10,280</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>8,977</u> | <u>9,706</u> | <u>(8,370)</u> | <u>(73)</u> | <u>10,240</u> |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>-</u> | <u>403</u> | <u>(403)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total funds | <u>8,977</u> | <u>10,109</u> | <u>(8,773)</u> | <u>(73)</u> | <u>10,240</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

15 Funds (continued)

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31st August 2024. At the period end, the carry forward GAG reserve was £372,000.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants include monies received outside GAG funding. As at the 31st August 2024 all of these monies had been spent in full.

Local Authority Grants represents amounts payable to the academy predominantly from Lancashire County Council. A large percentage of these funds relate specifically to Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding. As at the 31st August 2024 these funds had been utilised in full.

Other restricted funds include monies from trips & non public funds and donations. During the period the trips & non public funds had no excess expenditure over income. The donations received are for restricted purposes and as at the period end all of the donations had been spent in full.

Within other restricted funds there exists a balance between the Academy and the Diocese amounting to £102,000. This balance came into existence prior to the conversion to academy status and is specifically related to the Sixth Form Centre. This balance is repayable to the Diocese over a 12 year period. It is expected that the St Christopher's Appeal Fund will donate the value of each repayment to the school and thus all repayments will be financed from these monies rather than from government funding. It has been agreed that no interest will be charged on the outstanding balance.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent capital monies received during the period from the ESFA. As at the year end there was a CIF fund of £743,000 to be carried forward.

The ESFA building valuation represents the value of leasehold assets as per the ESFA valuation carried out in 2016 by a RICS approved valuer. In this valuation the leasehold buildings were valued at £9,775,000. The assets were valued using a depreciated replacement cost model and are to be depreciated over a 125 year period.

Unrestricted funds represent funds generated via activities such as from lettings, catering, the provision of music lessons, transport services to students and bank interest receivable. As at the 31st August 2024 these funds had been utilised in full.

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

15 Funds (continued)

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

| | Balance at 1 st September 2022 £000 | Income £000 | Expenditure £000 | Gains, Losses and Transfers £000 | Balance at 31 st August 2023 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | (71) | 7,213 | (6,955) | 76 | 263 |
| Pupil premium grant | - | 123 | (123) | - | - |
| Teacher Pay/Pension grant | - | 59 | (59) | - | - |
| Rates grant | - | 37 | (37) | - | - |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants | - | 269 | (269) | - | - |
| Local Authority grants | - | 316 | (316) | - | - |
| Other restricted funds | (102) | 70 | (70) | - | (102) |
| Pension reserve | (1,416) | - | 97 | 867 | (452) |
| | (1,589) | 8,087 | (7,732) | 943 | (291) |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| DfE/ESFA capital grants | - | 80 | - | (80) | - |
| Other capitalised assets | 13 | - | (5) | 4 | 12 |
| ESFA building valuation | 9,335 | - | (79) | - | 9,256 |
| | 9,348 | 80 | (84) | (76) | 9,268 |
| Total restricted funds | 7,759 | 8,167 | (7,816) | 867 | 8,977 |
| Total unrestricted funds | - | 296 | (296) | - | - |
| Total funds | 7,759 | 8,463 | (8,112) | 867 | 8,977 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2024 are represented by:

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted General Funds £000 | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000 | Total Funds £000 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 9,537 | 9,537 |
| Current assets | - | 1,147 | 743 | 1,890 |
| Current liabilities | - | (775) | - | (775) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (102) | - | (102) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | (310) | - | (310) |
| Total net assets | - | (40) | 10,280 | 10,240 |

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

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted General Funds £000 | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000 | Total Funds £000 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 9,268 | 9,268 |
| Current assets | - | 855 | - | 855 |
| Current liabilities | - | (592) | - | (592) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (102) | - | (102) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | (452) | - | (452) |
| Total net assets | - | (291) | 9,268 | 8,977 |

17 Capital commitments

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements | 743 | - |

18 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Amounts due within one year | 39 | 40 |
| Amounts due between one and five years | 114 | 153 |
| Amounts due after five years | - | - |
| | 153 | 193 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

19 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities) | 1,336 | 351 |
| Adjusted for: | | |
| Depreciation (note 11) | 84 | 84 |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (1,061) | (80) |
| Interest receivable (note 5) | - | - |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26) | (227) | (147) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 26) | 12 | 50 |
| (Increase) in debtors | (693) | (111) |
| Increase in creditors | 183 | 84 |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | (366) | 231 |

20 Cash flows from financing activities

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Repayments of borrowing | - | (62) |
| Cash inflows from borrowing | - | - |
| Net cash (used in) financing activities | - | (62) |

21 Cash flows from investing activities

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Interest receivable | - | - |
| Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets | - | - |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (353) | (4) |
| Capital grants from DfE/ESFA | 1,061 | 80 |
| Capital funding received from others | - | - |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 708 | 76 |

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | 976 | 634 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 976 | 634 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

| | At 1 st September 2023 | Cash flows | Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries | Finance leases | Other non-cash changes | At 31 st August 2024 |
|--|---|---------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cash | 634 | 342 | - | - | - | 976 |
| Cash equivalents | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overdraft facilities repayable on demand | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 634 | 342 | - | - | - | 976 |
| Loans falling due within one year | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Loans falling due after more than one year | (102) | - | - | - | - | (102) |
| Finance lease obligations | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | (102) | - | - | - | - | (102) |
| Total | 532 | 342 | - | - | - | 874 |

24 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any leasehold building the Academy is required to either re-invest the proceeds or to repay the Secretary of State for Education or the Diocese the proceeds of the sale or disposal as these two bodies would jointly have an interest in the proceeds of any sale.

25 Members' Liability

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

26 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 Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £nil (2023: £135,000) were payable to the schemes at 31st August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions. 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 31st March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27th October 2023 with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £931,000 (2023: £792,000).

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 is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Academy Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2024 was £554,000 (2023: £582,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £470,000 (2023: £497,000), and employees' contributions totalled £84,000 (2023: £85,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.9% for employers and the rate for employees remains dependant on the earnings of the employee.

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

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

| Principal Actuarial Assumptions | At 31 st August 2024 | At 31 st August 2023 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rate of increase in salaries | 4.1% | 4.3% |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation | 2.7% | 2.9% |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 5.0% | 5.4% |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | 2.6% | 2.8% |

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

| | At 31 st August 2024 | At 31 st August 2023 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Retiring today</i> | | |
| Males | 21 | 21.0 |
| Females | 23.5 | 23.4 |
| <i>Retiring in 20 years</i> | | |
| Males | 22.2 | 22.2 |
| Females | 25.3 | 25.2 |

Sensitivity analysis

| | Central | Sensitivity 1 | Sensitivity 2 | Sensitivity 3 | Sensitivity 4 |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | £000 | +0.5% pa discount rate £000 | +0.25% pa inflation £000 | +0.25% pa pay growth £000 | 1 year inc in life expectancy £000 |
| Liabilities | 6,735 | 6,169 | 7,037 | 6,811 | 6,881 |
| Assets | (6,425) | (6,425) | (6,425) | (6,425) | (6,425) |
| Deficit/(Surplus) | 310 | (256) | 612 | 386 | 456 |
| Projected service cost | 247 | 215 | 264 | 247 | 253 |
| Projected net interest | 4 | (27) | 19 | 8 | 11 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

| | Fair value at 31 st August 2024 | Fair value at 31 st August 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Equities | 3,066 | 2,713 |
| Government Bonds | 6 | 22 |
| Corporate bonds | 6 | - |
| Property | 546 | 533 |
| Cash and other liquid assets | 90 | 34 |
| Other | 2,711 | 2,304 |
| Total market value of assets | 6,425 | 5,606 |

The actual return on scheme assets was £432,000 (2023: £123,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Current service cost (net of employer contributions) | 235 | 156 |
| Interest income | 313 | 234 |
| Interest expense | (325) | (284) |
| Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement | - | - |
| Admin expenses | (8) | (9) |
| Total operating charge | 215 | 97 |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| At 1st September | 6,058 | 6,628 |
| Current service cost | 235 | 341 |
| Past service cost | - | - |
| Interest cost | 325 | 284 |
| Employee contributions | 84 | 85 |
| Actuarial loss/(gain) | 192 | (1,137) |
| Benefits paid | (159) | (143) |
| Losses or gains on curtailments | - | - |
| Past service costs | - | - |
| Unfunded pension payments | - | - |
| Effect of non-routine transactions | - | - |
| At 31st August | <u>6,735</u> | <u>6,058</u> |

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

| | 2024 £000 | 2023 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| At 1st September | 5,606 | 5,212 |
| Interest income | 313 | 234 |
| Return on plan assets (excluding interest income) | - | - |
| Assets distributed on settlements | - | - |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) | 119 | (270) |
| Employer contributions | 470 | 497 |
| Employee contributions | 84 | 85 |
| Benefits paid | (159) | (143) |
| Administration expenses | (8) | (9) |
| Effect of non-routine settlements | - | - |
| At 31st August | <u>6,425</u> | <u>5,606</u> |

Accrington St Christopher's Church of England High School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2024

27 Related Party Transactions

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

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

28 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting year ending 31st August 2024 the trust received £38,000 (2023: £38,000) and disbursed £49,000 (2023: £29,000) from the fund.

An amount of £23,000 (2023: £34,000) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.