

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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**Members**

M Wolton  
S Harvey  
N Spurrier  
J Bewley

**Trustees**

L Dance, Chief Executive  
K Brimfield, Chair of Trustees  
J Bee (resigned 5 April 2022)  
P R Bevan (appointed 29 March 2022, resigned 3 May 2022)  
B Burch (resigned 20 June 2022)  
D Ellis  
L R Grainger (appointed 7 December 2022)  
W Gray (resigned 21 October 2021)  
S Harvey (resigned 2 September 2021)  
C Haslam (resigned 11 August 2022)  
M L Henry (appointed 8 August 2022)  
S Mcgurk (appointed 7 December 2022)  
A Noble  
R Pattenden (resigned 9 October 2022)  
C Peutrill (appointed 2 November 2022)  
C A Sellick (appointed 3 October 2022)  
D Young (resigned 19 October 2022)  
B Williams (appointed 20 June 2022)

**Company registered number**

11968610

**Company name**

SAND Academies Trust

**Principal and registered office**

c/o The Milestone School  
Longford Lane  
Longlevens  
Gloucestershire  
GL2 9EU

**Company secretary**

K Shepherd

**Chief executive officer**

L Dance

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Independent auditor**

Crowe U.K. LLP  
Fourth Floor  
St James House  
St James Square  
Cheltenham  
GL50 3PR

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
19 Eastgate Street  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire  
GL1 1NU

**Solicitors**

Harrison Clark Rickerbys  
Overross House  
Ross Park  
Ross on Wye  
Herefordshire  
HR9 7US

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**Senior Leadership Team**

<i>Central Trust</i>	Mrs Lyn Dance	Chief Executive Officer
	Miss Louise Morgan	Finance Director
	Mrs Lynn Campbell-Davies	Operations Director
<i>Battledown</i>	Miss Nicola Teague	Head Teacher
	Miss Leah Vellam-Steptoe	Deputy Head Teacher
<i>Belmont</i>	Mr Kevin Day	Head Teacher
	Mrs Chantel Yeates	Deputy Head Teacher
	Mrs Katy Hanna	Assistant Head
<i>Milestone</i>	Ms Diane Taylor	Head Teacher
	Mr Stephen Dowell	Deputy Head Teacher
	Mrs Paula Jones	Head of Department
	Ms Kara Mann	Head of Department
	Mr Thomas Lovell	Head of Department
<i>Paternoster</i>	Mrs Annette Fidderman	Head Teacher
	Mrs Clare Duncan	Assistant Head
	Mrs Jennifer Laird	Assistant Head
	Mrs Samantha Beltran	Assistant Head
<i>Willow</i>	Mr Peter Hales	Head Teacher
	Mrs Carly Tonks	Deputy Head Teacher

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates five schools (4 special schools and 1 main stream academy) pupils aged 2 to 16 in Gloucestershire. It has a PAN pupil capacity of 837 and had a roll in the last census of 792 - this is a decrease as we are currently looking to fill more places within the Willow Primary . The Trust catchment area is throughout Gloucestershire with some pupils coming from outside of the county due to shortages of places in other Local Authorities.

Gloucestershire Local Authority in conjunction with the Regional Schools Commissioner have, following the Trust's submission of a comprehensive bid, selected SAND Academy Trust to open and run a new special school in Stroud in September 2023. The new school will support primary aged children from across the county with moderate and additional learning difficulties. The Trust will draw from its extensive experience in supporting young people with complex special educational needs to ensure the best possible outcomes for the pupils.

The Milestone School is a DfE sponsor academy.

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

#### **a. Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Academy Trust. The Trusts purpose is to improve outcomes, opportunities, and life chances for children and young people, offer more/wider support for their families and share and develop staff experience through partnership working.

The Trustees of SAND Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as SAND Academies Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the yearperiod, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

#### **b. 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.

#### **c. Trustees' indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance (a member of Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement) to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

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

- Minimum of 3 but no maximum number of Trustees
- Up to 12 trustees appointed by the Members by ordinary resolution
- Under Article 57 of the Articles of Association, the CEO is appointed as a Trustee

Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or re-elected.

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

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

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Induction is tailored specifically to the individual.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**f. Organisational structure**

SAND Academies Trust has followed the organisational structure laid down in the Articles of Association. The structure is represented on page 1.

The Board of Trustees normally meets at least 6 times a year. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

During the year, specifically in January 2022, the Trustees agree to restructure their committees to ensure robust governance processes were in place. Both committee structures are detailed below:

- **Finance and Risk Audit Committee (to January 2022)**  
This meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, risk assessment, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer/internal audit and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.
- **Resources Committee (to January 2022)**  
This meets at least 6 times a year and is responsible for H&S Reporting and oversight, property development and maintenance, Staffing and HR.
- **Finance and Resources Committee (from January 2022)**  
This committee meets 6 times per year and is responsible for overseeing all financial aspects of the trust in order to ensure short- and long-term viability. It also has responsibility for oversight and evaluation of the trust's people, facility, premises and property processes and effectiveness, maintenance and development throughout the trust.
- **Audit and Risk Committee (from January 2022)**  
This committee meets at least 3 times a year and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of audit and risk for the trust, both internally and externally, and for the identification and appropriate management of risk throughout the trust and within individual schools in the trust.
- **Quality of Education Committee**  
This meets at least 6 times a year and is responsible for the quality of teaching, learning and curriculum delivery. The committee works to ensure that best practice from each school is shared and utilised to drive improvement to pupil progress.
- **Chairs Committee**  
Comprised of the CEO, the Chair of Trustees and the Chairs of the Local Advisory Boards. Meets 6 times a year to monitor progress and feedback from the individual academies and to develop partnership working and collaborative projects.
- **People Committee**  
Recognising that staff are our greatest asset, trustees have agreed to add another committee to their structure when numbers of trustees recruited allows this to be viable. The committee will focus on recruitment and retention of staff, ensuring robust processes are in place for all staff performance management and monitoring morale and wellbeing in our schools.
- **Headteachers and CEO meetings are also held termly to share good practice.**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees, to:

- consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure,
- appoint or remove the Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson,
- appoint the Chief Executive Officer and Trust Governance Professional,
- approve the strategy and annual budget.

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the trust to the CEO and Senior Leadership Team of each school. The SLT implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Headteachers are responsible for the appointment of staff, though appointment panels for Headteacher posts will include a member of the Local Advisory Board and a Trustee.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

**g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Remuneration for the Trust's key management personnel is through the performance management process, managed by the CEO. Recommendations for increases in salary are presented to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

The Chair of Trustees is responsible for the Pay and Appraisal of the CEO.

Headteachers' remuneration is through the performance management process overseen by the CEO and Chair of Local Advisory Board of the school. Recommendations for increases in salary are presented to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the period for their Trustee duties.

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

**h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

Information on transactions with related parties can be found in note 28 to the accounts.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**i. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

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

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

- Equal opportunities policy
- Health & safety policy

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

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

**j. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust**

The Trust launched SAND Training & Outreach in September 2021 which aims not only to provide training and support for the Trust schools, but also to identify and co-ordinate expertise using best practitioners to:

- Play a greater role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession
- Lead peer-to-peer professional and leadership development
- Identify and develop leadership potential through succession planning and talent management
- Provide support for other settings and parents/carers

SAND Training & Outreach is a partner of Odyssey Teaching School Hub.

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The principal object and activity of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing our schools specifically organised to enable the provision of special educational services for pupils with severe, complex and profound and multiple learning difficulties. Individual schools have bespoke policies as relevant to their unique context including policies for volunteering, staff well-being and flexible working. Individual staff members have work place disability passports as appropriate to their individual needs.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

**Review of the year 2021/22**

During the year to 31 August 2022, the Trust placed a bid for a free school in Stroud. Since the end of the year the Trust has learnt that its bid has been successful. The new school will open in September 2023.

**Ethos / Vision for SAND Academies Trust:**

As a partnership we will achieve more together and therefore:

- Improve outcomes, opportunities and life chances for children and young people;
- Offer more / wider support for their families;
- Share and develop staff expertise;
- The Trust is child-centred, giving children and young people, families and carers a voice;
- Through collaboration we challenge and maximise potential for our schools and individuals;
- We ensure the individual identity of each school;
- We develop a climate which is open to change and development;
- We shape the future by influencing services and provisions;
- Individuals are empowered to make decisions using research-based evidence to ensure the quality of education has sound intent, clear implementation and accountable impact;
- Community engagement is embedded in learning experiences, both the local community of the provision and the children and young people;
- Opportunities and activities are provided to support transitions for future learning and employment;
- Skills and knowledge of all employees are utilised to improve educational outcomes for children and young people regardless of the accommodation where they are placed.

**Aims for SAND Academies Trust:**

- To provide the best possible education for children and young people, including those with additional and complex needs, in both mainstream and special schools.
- To achieve excellence through innovation, creativity and continuous improvement.
- To direct the maximum resources available to The Trusts' academies, facilitating and servicing high standards.
- To build formal and informal partnerships across Gloucestershire and beyond.
- To develop a Trust which is 'outward' looking and enterprising.
- To support, challenge and improve underperforming schools.
- To utilise internal and external providers in the pursuit of excellence based upon pupil need.
- To utilise the skills and experience of staff and leaders across The Trust to the best advantage of the children and young people.
- To provide an environment where staff can continually develop and progress their careers.
- To develop multi agency working practices.
- To develop children and young people's independence skills and support families to take part in a parallel journey with their child as they prepare for adulthood.
- To maximise value-for-money by continued attention to costs and streamlining & centralising working practices where appropriate.
- To play a strategic role across the region by linking with other organisations such as GAPH, GASH, GASSH, G15, GSP, National Star College, The University of Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire College, SGS Stroud college, training providers (Prospects and Bridge), Parent Carers (Face 2 Face), Forwards Employment, GFirst LEP, local businesses and voluntary sector organisations.

The Trust Board have finalised their 2021-26 strategic plan through which the above aims will be delivered. A number of operational and financial key performance indicators are included in the strategy document to ensure the aims noted above can be monitored and achieved over a set period of time. The overarching strategic plan is supported by a number of further strategies including IT, HR, CPD, School Improvement, Estates and Finance.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

All supporting strategic plans are monitored through the committees. The trustees are currently considering and finalising a Growth strategy.

**c. Public benefit**

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

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

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Key performance indicators**

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for the period were approximately 792.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income. For the period, this was 81%. The Trust board are targeting making a cash neutral position at each school at the end of each academic year.

**b. 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.

In the year 2021-2022 there have been many staff changes within the Central Finance team. These changes have allowed us to review systems and processes and develop a strategic plan. There is now a capital and revenue budget set ensuring funds are available to deliver capital projects and enable staff to continue to provide quality education and care. For the year 2021-2022 the Trust introduced new financial software system, RM Accounts. This has enabled easier and more timely monitoring and scrutiny of budgets and budget holders can now view live budgets giving the finances of each school more transparency.

The Trust 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.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Financial review**

**a. Financial Report for 2021-2022**

Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in note 2.

The academy trust held fund balances at 31 August 2022 of £24,777,055 (2021: £13,029,764) comprising £24,548,588 (2021: £24,524,982) of restricted fixed asset funds, £1,906,000 of pension reserve deficit (2021: £13,635,000), £782,206 (2021: £1,048,669) of restricted funds for specific funding, and £1,352,261 (2021: £1,091,113) of unrestricted funds.

With regard to the deficit on the pension reserve, the academy will continue to make contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) with actuarial advice and has no plans to increase contributions above the recommended level.

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

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**b. Significant events**

Covid-19 continued to dominate the academic year. All schools within the Trust remained open during the pandemic, with closures to classes or year groups as appropriate due to Covid infections. The Trust, as a legal entity, was required to assess health and safety risks, in order to keep schools open safely for children and staff. We are grateful for the National Tutoring funding that two of our schools utilised and the continued Covid recovery funding. How this funding was utilised to support children and improve educational and school outcomes can be seen in reports on our school websites.

Throughout the year it has been difficult to recruit across the Trust. This has led to additional staffing costs as we have had to employ agency staff to fill the gaps. Following on from this, the Trust has been looking at ways to make our employment offer the most attractive in the sector. Previously, trusts and schools were the only employers that could offer a term time only role, however, other sectors are now offering this option which makes it difficult for our sector to compete especially with the restrictions of spending public money.

During the year the Trust has procured a new HR system and payroll provider. A full business case was submitted to the Finance Committee and approval was given. The Trust had also procured a new finance system called RM Accounts which has been rolled out to the central Finance team and, in time, this will be rolled out to schools for them to use.

There has been a large increase in energy costs across the country and we are yet to have borne the financial impact of this across the Trust. The Trust is in its current energy deal until September 2023. From September 2023 we have increased the budget in line with the current rises.

From the reserves strategy set in September 2021, the Trust has completed several large capital projects and provided the entire Trust with Read Write Inc. The total capital spend for the year ended August 2022 was £790,000.

**c. Reserves Policy**

All reserves (restricted, unrestricted and capital funds) across the MAT are pooled centrally with the exception of restricted fixed asset funds. These capital funds are ring-fenced and protected to Academies in accordance with the sponsor's funding requirements and in line with ESFA Academy Handbook.

Any overall surpluses or deficits (reserves) at the end of the year are carried over to the following year.

The CEO as Accounting Officer must inform the ESFA immediately if a deficit is anticipated.

If the Academy Trust is anticipating a deficit at the end of the financial year, the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer have a responsibility to ensure action is taken at the earliest opportunity to address this issue. The Trust Board must ensure that a recovery plan is submitted and approved by the ESFA.

The academy trust undertakes to ensure that a contingency reserve of £800k of the previous year's total GAG is kept, as recommended by the most current SRMA visit.

The unrestricted funds at 31 August 2022 are £1,352,261 (2021: £1,091,113). There are capital projects required throughout the Trust in order to maintain a safe environment for the pupils and staff. The Trust will make an informed decision as to which projects go ahead. GEMs is a tool used by the Trust's site Lead. GEMs uses the information gathered by surveys to rate projects that need to be completed. These projects will be priced and quotes and then agreed by the Finance Committee.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**d. Capital reserves**

Any overall surpluses at the end of the year are carried over to the following year.

It is the responsibility of the Finance Director to keep accurate records of the capital funds, especially where grants have been received for capital projects.

**e. Investment policy and performance**

The Trustees have agreed the following:

Investments must be made only in accordance with written procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. All investments must be recorded in detail including date of purchase, cost and description, to identify it and to enable market value to be calculated. Additional procedures may be required to ensure all relevant income is received.

**f. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trustees use a number of academy policies including health and safety, finance, safeguarding and schools' risk registers to evaluate strategic and reputational, operational and financial risks to which the Trust is exposed and ensure that the management structure, systems and controls are in place to manage those risks, as well as insurance to cover financial and governance arrangements by completing the Academies Financial Management and Governance Evaluation which is being submitted to the ESFA.

The trustees ensure regular review of risks as a standing item in the Finance and Risk Audit committee.

The principal risk facing the Trust is the future level of funding and an ability to operate with ongoing cost increases. This risk is managed carefully through controls over budget expenditure at each school.

The Board consider significant events to include unforeseen capital and infrastructure costs which would have both an operational and a financial impact; and any changes in government policies around funding.

**Fundraising**

All 5 schools have Friends of the school Associations that are registered charities. The Milestone School has a part time fund raiser.

The schools are involved in raising money and resources and our students regularly undertake extensive fundraising in support of charitable causes. These may be annual events such as Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal, or one-off events as deemed necessary.

The Trust board are in the process of planning a new and invigorated fundraising strategy as a key objective in our Strategic Vision. The strategy will investigate grants, business sponsorships and donations, and voluntary parent contributions / fundraising events.

The first significant fundraising drive will be to secure funds to help support a future CIF bid for the refurbishment of facilities needed to help support the best learning experience for our students.

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees and therefore ensures protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**Plans for future periods**

**Future developments**

Over the coming year, the Trust aims to:

- Consolidate and strengthen the central services of the trust including being clear about our collective objectives, finances and support capacity.
- Develop a business plan to establish a SAND AT nursery and consider the viability of such
- Continue to converse with schools interested in joining (or suggested by the RSC
- Engineer a change management activity to move the culture of SAND to one that sees each employee as part of SAND AT, and contributing to our collective effort
- Develop our employer offer to be an employer of choice
- Develop our network with other MATs to share good practice and innovation
- Develop the vision of SAND AT as a therapeutic community to enhance the education offer
- Complete a robust health and safety audit of all schools
- Develop a Trust wide building and facilities improvement plan
- Improve the IT structure and a cloud based information management system to enable more efficiencies and streamlined systems and processes
- Review and improve the Trust risk register
- Review and develop individual school processes and procedures into a common framework across the Trust
- Improve the Quality of Education through SIP visits and the sharing of expertise across the Trust
- Continue to develop our teaching and learning to be a good and outstanding schools respected by our peers..

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

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

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

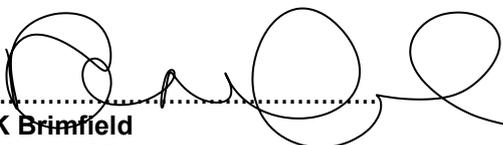
Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- that 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.

**Auditor**

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

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



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**K Brimfield**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**Scope of responsibility**

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

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

The Board of Trustees commissioned an External Review of Governance during the period 2021-2022 from CST (Confederation of School Trusts). The review included meetings with key governance stakeholders throughout the trust, meeting observations of the trust board, committees and Local Advisory Boards and a review of all governance paperwork. The CST consultant provided some recommendations to the trust board as a result of the review and the trustees have developed an action plan based on the recommendations which were accepted by the board.

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 SAND Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Scope of responsibility (continued)**

**Conflict of interest**

All trustees recognise they have a legal duty to act only in the best interests of the trust and that they must not put themselves in any position where their duties as trustee may conflict with any personal interest they may have.

Trustees' personal and professional connections can bring benefits to the work of the Trust and they often form part of the reason why an individual has been asked to join the trustee body however there may be a situation where there is a conflict of interest where a trustee's personal interests or loyalties could, or could be seen to, prevent them from making a decision only in the best interests of the Trust.

To address these rare situations, the Trust holds a full Register of Business Interests which is recorded on the Trust's website alongside the Scheme of Delegation and Guide to Governance. The register is subdivided into:

- Academy Trust Members
- Trust Board Trustees
- Local Advisory Boards
- Senior Employees

Updates to the register are made as a result of information either resulting from a formal minuted committee meeting, where the first agenda item records any Declarations of Interest in respect of agenda items or otherwise, or from the annual business interests returns, which are completed in readiness for the year end external audit, and refreshed during the year, as circumstances dictate.

If there is a conflict of interest, the committee clerk ensures that the written record of the decision shows that the Trust has acted properly and complied with their duties by recording:

- the nature of the conflict
- which trustee or trustees were affected
- whether any conflicts of interest were declared in advance
- an outline of the discussion
- whether anyone withdrew from the discussion
- how the trustees took the decision in the best interests of the Trust

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Governance**

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

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance, Chief Executive	6	6
K Brimfield, Chair of Trustees	6	6
J Bee	1	3
P R Bevan	1	1
B Burch	4	5
D Ellis	6	6
L R Grainger	0	0
W Gray	0	0
S Harvey	0	0
C Haslam	3	6
M L Henry	0	0
S Mcgurk	0	0
A Noble	3	6
R Pattenden	6	6
C Peutrill	0	0
C A Sellick	0	0
D Young	4	6
B Williams	1	1

The **Finance and Risk Audit Committee (to January 2022)** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to take responsibility on behalf of the Board for overseeing all financial aspects of the Trust in order to ensure short and long term viability. Attendance at meetings during the period was as follows:

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance	3	3
D Young	3	3
D Ellis	2	3
B Burch	3	3

The **Resources Committee (to January 2022)** is also a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to oversee and evaluate the HR/Staffing processes and property maintenance and development throughout SAND Academies Trust. The committee shall make appropriate recommendations to the Trust Board within the context of its terms of reference.

Attendance at meetings during the period was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance	1	2
C Haslam	2	2
S Harvey	2	2
W Gray	0	1
A Noble	1	2

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Governance (continued)**

The **Quality of Education Committee** is a committee of the main board of Trustees. The committee is responsible for the quality of teaching, learning and curriculum delivery. The committee works to ensure that best practice from each school is shared and utilised to drive improvement to pupil progress.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance	6	6
K Brimfield	5	6
A Noble	6	6
B Williams	0	1
J Bee	0	4
R Pattenden	5	6

The **Finance and Resources Committee (from January 2022)** is a committee of the main board of Trustees. The committee is responsible for overseeing all financial aspects of the trust in order to ensure short- and long-term viability. It also has responsibility for oversight and evaluation of the trust's people, facility, premises and property processes and effectiveness, maintenance and development throughout the trust.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance	3	3
C Haslam	2	3
S Harvey	3	3
D Young	2	3
B Burch	2	3
P R Bevan	1	1

The **Audit and Risk Committee (from January 2022)** is a committee of the main board of Trustees. The committee is responsible for overseeing all aspects of audit and risk for the trust, both internally and externally, and for the identification and appropriate management of risk throughout the trust and within individual schools in the trust.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Dance	1	1
D Ellis	1	1
A Noble	1	1
B Burch	1	1

The majority of trust board and committee meetings were held virtually on Teams. Minutes of meetings have been approved at the relevant meetings but have not yet been physically signed. This will be completed in due course. It is the intention that all full trust board meetings will return to being held face to face with committees able to determine their own arrangements.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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 appropriate.

Accounting and finance policies were put in place as our top priority to safeguarding DfE funding and to optimise value for money while delivering our curriculums. Going forward we will continue to adopt best practices recommended in ESFA Financial Handbook and Academies Accounting Directions. We have plans to improve our finance systems in the coming year which will enable staff and stakeholders to have better visibility in their spending and introduce timely mitigation actions where necessary. We will strengthen our internal controls to minimise fraud; enhance our budgeting and monitoring process to ensure the Board of Trustees decisions are underpinned by sound financial analysis. We will also introduce treasury management to stretch our funding capabilities further; along with continuation of external bidding for extra funding where opportunities arises to warrant financial viability. With full support and collaboration from our partner organisations, local communities, trustees, local authorities and Friends of our schools, we will continue to deliver our mission on removing obstacles and enabling access to learning for all the children under our care in a sustainable manner.

**The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in SAND Academies Trust for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The risk and control framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed instructed, a third party, to carry out a programme of internal checks.

The Board of Trustees appointed an external auditor Optimum Professional Services to carry out the internal scrutiny review. The Board requested that the review was to be reference income. The Scope of the visit was "To ensure the treatment of income is correct and that all income due has been received." The main aims were:

- To confirm that income is recognised in line with the financial reporting framework (FRF).
- To confirm that the income is complete.

The report has since been received, reviewed and actioned.

On a semi-annual basis, the reviewer reports to the board of Trustees through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustees' financial responsibilities.

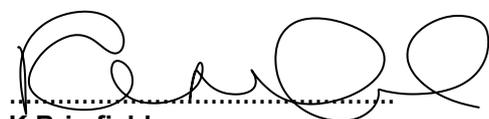
**Review of effectiveness**

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

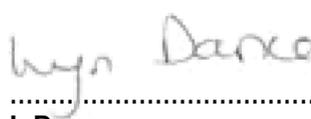
- the work of the reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



**K Brimfield**  
Chair of Trustees



**L Dance**  
Accounting Officer

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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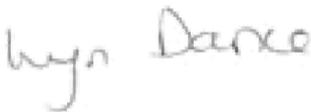
**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As accounting officer of SAND Academies Trust 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 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 Academies Financial Handbook 2021.

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 Academies Financial Handbook 2021.

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.



**L Dance**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 16 December 2022

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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



**K Brimfield**  
(Chair of Trustees)  
Date: 16 December 2022

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SAND  
ACADEMIES TRUST**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of SAND Academies Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 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 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy 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.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SAND ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SAND  
ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SAND  
ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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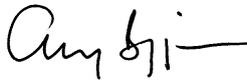
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SAND  
ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Guy Biggin (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Fourth Floor

St James House

St James Square

Cheltenham

GL50 3PR

**23** December 2022

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 September 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by SAND Academies Trust during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 SAND Academies Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to SAND Academies Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than SAND Academies Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of SAND Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of SAND Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 May 2019 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the charitable company's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the charitable company and specific transactions identified from our review.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*Crowe UK LLP.*

Reporting Accountant  
**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Date: 23 December 2022

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	104,840	1,730,909
Other trading activities	151,454	-	-	151,454	56,836
Investments	253	-	-	253	-
Charitable activities	125,659	16,077,271	-	16,202,930	14,563,562
Teaching schools	-	470,468	-	470,468	145,575
<b>Total income</b>	<b>277,366</b>	<b>16,547,739</b>	<b>104,840</b>	<b>16,929,945</b>	<b>16,496,882</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	21,346	17,941,546	882,736	18,845,628	15,623,106
Teaching schools	-	79,026	-	79,026	75,998
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>21,346</b>	<b>18,020,572</b>	<b>882,736</b>	<b>18,924,654</b>	<b>15,699,104</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>256,020</b>	<b>(1,472,833)</b>	<b>(777,896)</b>	<b>(1,994,709)</b>	<b>797,778</b>
Transfers between funds	16	-	(801,502)	801,502	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>	<b>256,020</b>	<b>(2,274,335)</b>	<b>23,606</b>	<b>(1,994,709)</b>	<b>797,778</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Other gains/(losses)	-	13,742,000	-	13,742,000	(3,010,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>256,020</b>	<b>11,467,665</b>	<b>23,606</b>	<b>11,747,291</b>	<b>(2,212,222)</b>

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
(CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	1,096,241	(12,591,459)	24,524,982	13,029,764	15,241,986
Net movement in funds	256,020	11,467,665	23,606	11,747,291	(2,212,222)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>1,352,261</u>	<u>(1,123,794)</u>	<u>24,548,588</u>	<u>24,777,055</u>	<u>13,029,764</u>

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

The notes on pages 35 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 11968610**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	<b>24,548,588</b>	24,524,982
		<u>24,548,588</u>	<u>24,524,982</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	437,711	270,974
Cash at bank and in hand		2,397,898	2,991,261
		<u>2,835,609</u>	<u>3,262,235</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(701,142)	(1,122,453)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>2,134,467</b>	2,139,782
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>26,683,055</b>	26,664,764
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<b>26,683,055</b>	26,664,764
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(1,906,000)	(13,635,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>24,777,055</b>	13,029,764

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 11968610**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	16	<b>24,548,588</b>	24,524,982
Restricted income funds	16	<b>782,206</b>	1,043,541
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	16	<b>25,330,794</b>	25,568,523
Pension reserve	16	<b>(1,906,000)</b>	(13,635,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	16	<b>23,424,794</b>	11,933,523
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	16	<b>1,352,261</b>	1,096,241
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>24,777,055</b>	13,029,764

The financial statements on pages 30 to 66 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 16 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**K Brimfield**  
Chair of Trustees



**L Dance**  
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 35 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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	<b>Note</b>	<b>2022</b> £	<i>2021</i> £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	<b>222,690</b>	4,286,289
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	20	<b>(906,342)</b>	<i>(2,601,664)</i>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	19	<b>253</b>	-
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(683,399)</b>	<i>1,684,625</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>2,991,261</b>	<i>1,306,636</i>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	21, 22	<b>2,307,862</b>	<i>2,991,261</i>

The notes on pages 35 to 66 form part of these financial statements

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies**

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

The company is a private company (limited by guarantee), which is incorporated and registered in England and Wales (no. 11968610). The address of the principal office is The Milestone School, Longford Lane, Longlevens, Gloucestershire, GL2 9EU.

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy 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.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

- **Grants**

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

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

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

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

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

- **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.

**1.5 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**1.6 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 conditions 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:

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold property	- 30 - 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 5 years
Motor vehicles	- 5 years

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

**1.7 Debtors**

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

**1.8 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**1.9 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities and provisions 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 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.

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 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 bases 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 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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 note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

**1.11 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**1.12 Pensions**

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 so as 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 on the basis of 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 operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 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 the funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	<b>Restricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Capital grants	-	67,000	<b>67,000</b>
Capital donations	-	37,840	<b>37,840</b>
	-	104,840	<b>104,840</b>
	-	104,840	<b>104,840</b>
	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Funds inherited on conversion	(771,000)	2,170,000	1,399,000
Capital Grants	-	281,775	281,775
Similar incoming resources	-	50,134	50,134
	(771,000)	2,501,909	1,730,909
	(771,000)	2,501,909	1,730,909

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**4. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
<b>Funding for Educational Operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,002,043	<b>7,002,043</b>
Pupil premium	-	476,928	<b>476,928</b>
UIFSM	-	43,893	<b>43,893</b>
PE & Sports Grant	-	82,940	<b>82,940</b>
Apprenticeships Incentive	-	7,000	<b>7,000</b>
	-	7,612,804	<b>7,612,804</b>
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local authority grants	-	8,395,954	<b>8,395,954</b>
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's funding for educational operations</b>	125,659	68,513	<b>194,172</b>
	125,659	16,077,271	<b>16,202,930</b>

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
<b>Funding for Educational Operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,012,109	6,012,109
Pupil Premium	-	388,117	388,117
UIFSM	-	39,348	39,348
PE & Sports Grant	-	73,786	73,786
Trust Capacity Fund	-	145,608	145,608
Pre-opening Grant	-	110,000	110,000
Strategic School Improvement	-	4,000	4,000
Apprenticeships Incentive	-	4,000	4,000
	-	6,776,968	6,776,968
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local authority grants	-	7,501,036	7,501,036
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's funding for educational operations</b>	9,331	-	9,331
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>			
Catch-up Premium	-	149,860	149,860
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	55,427	55,427
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)</b>			
Other COVID-19 funding	-	70,940	70,940
	9,331	14,554,231	14,563,562

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Hire of facilities	102,654	<b>102,654</b>
Catering income	36,702	<b>36,702</b>
Other income	12,098	<b>12,098</b>
	<u>151,454</u>	<u><b>151,454</b></u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Hire of facilities	18,135	18,135
Catering income	38,701	38,701
	<u>56,836</u>	<u>56,836</u>

**6. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Premises 2022 £</b>	<b>Other 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Funding for Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	12,114,869	-	1,868,609	<b>13,983,478</b>
Allocated support costs	3,348,274	366,630	1,147,246	<b>4,862,150</b>
Teaching school	79,026	-	-	<b>79,026</b>
	<u>15,542,169</u>	<u>366,630</u>	<u>3,015,855</u>	<u><b>18,924,654</b></u>

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**6. Expenditure (continued)**

	<i>Staff Costs</i> 2021 £	<i>Premises</i> 2021 £	<i>Other</i> 2021 £	<i>Total</i> 2021 £
Funding for Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	10,746,479	-	1,516,835	12,263,314
Allocated support costs	2,121,929	484,911	752,952	3,359,792
Teaching school	45,123	-	30,875	75,998
	<u>12,913,531</u>	<u>484,911</u>	<u>2,300,662</u>	<u>15,699,104</u>

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Funding for Educational Operations	<u>13,983,478</u>	<u>4,862,150</u>	<u>18,845,628</u>
	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2021 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Funding for Educational Operations	<u>12,263,314</u>	<u>3,359,792</u>	<u>15,623,106</u>

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Funding for educational operations 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Staff costs	11,943,833	<b>11,943,833</b>
Depreciation	882,736	<b>882,736</b>
Catering costs	149,714	<b>149,714</b>
Teaching and educational support	172,757	<b>172,757</b>
Educational supplies	317,005	<b>317,005</b>
Educational activities	56,669	<b>56,669</b>
Examination fees	2,060	<b>2,060</b>
Staff development	246,911	<b>246,911</b>
Other direct costs	166,969	<b>166,969</b>
Professional fees	44,824	<b>44,824</b>
	<hr/> <b>13,983,478</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>13,983,478</b> <hr/>

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs (continued)**

	<i>Funding for educational operations 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	10,706,392	10,706,392
Depreciation	714,216	714,216
Catering costs	97,669	97,669
Teaching and educational support	194,694	194,694
Educational supplies	285,298	285,298
Educational activities	7,907	7,907
Examination fees	5,466	5,466
Staff development	113,002	113,002
Other direct costs	114,431	114,431
Professional fees	24,239	24,239
	<u>12,263,314</u>	<u>12,263,314</u>

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Funding for educational operations 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Staff costs	3,294,674	<b>3,294,674</b>
Net interest cost on LGPS	239,000	<b>239,000</b>
Support staff costs	84,335	<b>84,335</b>
Maintenance of premises	250,666	<b>250,666</b>
Cleaning	115,964	<b>115,964</b>
Insurance	13,204	<b>13,204</b>
Security and transport	53,525	<b>53,525</b>
Professional fees	381,511	<b>381,511</b>
Other support costs	411,587	<b>411,587</b>
Legal costs	17,684	<b>17,684</b>
	<u>4,862,150</u>	<u><b>4,862,150</b></u>

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs (continued)**

Included within staff costs and professional fees above are governance costs totalling £73,809 (2021: £47,560). Governance costs are costs of administrative support provided to the trustees, and costs relating to constitutional and statutory requirements including audit and preparation of statutory accounts

	<i>Funding for educational operations</i> 2021 £	<i>Total funds</i> 2021 £
Staff costs	2,077,272	2,077,272
Net interest cost on LGPS	163,000	163,000
Support staff costs	44,657	44,657
Maintenance of premises	215,825	215,825
Cleaning	145,386	145,386
Insurance	24,766	24,766
Security and transport	59,137	59,137
Professional fees	208,224	208,224
Other support costs	398,541	398,541
Legal costs	22,984	22,984
	<u>3,359,792</u>	<u>3,359,792</u>

**8. Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	<b>2022</b> £	<b>2021</b> £
Operating lease rentals	<b>9,552</b>	9,552
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>882,736</b>	714,216
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	<b>24,522</b>	23,480
- other services	<b>5,880</b>	9,825
	<u><b>918,730</b></u>	<u>757,073</u>

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**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**9. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>10,044,962</b>	<b>8,850,054</b>
Social security costs	<b>882,025</b>	<b>722,227</b>
Pension costs	<b>4,390,546</b>	<b>3,256,506</b>
	<b>15,317,533</b>	<b>12,828,787</b>
Agency staff costs	<b>224,636</b>	<b>84,744</b>
	<b>15,542,169</b>	<b>12,913,531</b>

Included within wages and salaries is a settlement amount of £nil (2021: £3,444 paid to 1 individual).

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teachers	<b>99</b>	<b>88</b>
Administration and support	<b>390</b>	<b>384</b>
Management	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>506</b>	<b>490</b>

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**9. Staff (continued)**

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	<b>No.</b>	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>4</b>	<i>4</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>1</b>	<i>2</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>2</b>	<i>1</i>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	<b>-</b>	<i>1</i>
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	<b>1</b>	<i>-</i>
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,344,917 (2021 £1,347,654).

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**10. Central services**

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

- Executive staffing support
- Business and finance support
- Accountancy support and audit
- Facilities management

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The total cost for the year is based on an apportioned payroll cost for those individuals deemed to hold a Trust role, plus any associated direct costs of managing and governing the Trust such as audit fees or consultancy fees.

This total cost is then apportioned based on the size of the school and the number of months which the school has been part of the Trust. This 'top slice' equates to approximately 8% of income for each school. Recharges are then made between The Central Trust and the other schools in the Trust.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
The Milestone School	552,854	461,090
Paternoster School	98,285	109,657
Battledown Centre for Children and Families	110,571	88,856
Belmont School	270,284	173,758
Willow Primary Academy	196,570	57,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,228,564</b>	<b>890,940</b>

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

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

		2022 £	2021 £
L Dance	Remuneration	100,000 - 105,000	95,000 - 100,000
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	20,000 - 25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021 - £NIL).

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**12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department of 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 membership.

**13. Tangible fixed assets**

	Leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	25,103,895	473,016	135,442	41,044	25,753,397
Additions	291,011	464,945	138,386	12,000	906,342
At 31 August 2022	<u>25,394,906</u>	<u>937,961</u>	<u>273,828</u>	<u>53,044</u>	<u>26,659,739</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	1,106,872	60,703	55,240	5,600	1,228,415
Charge for the year	633,015	147,292	92,420	10,009	882,736
At 31 August 2022	<u>1,739,887</u>	<u>207,995</u>	<u>147,660</u>	<u>15,609</u>	<u>2,111,151</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2022	<u><u>23,655,019</u></u>	<u><u>729,966</u></u>	<u><u>126,168</u></u>	<u><u>37,435</u></u>	<u><u>24,548,588</u></u>
<i>At 31 August 2021</i>	<u><u>23,997,023</u></u>	<u><u>412,313</u></u>	<u><u>80,202</u></u>	<u><u>35,444</u></u>	<u><u>24,524,982</u></u>



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**16. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Funds inherited on conversion	1,003,039	-	-	-	-	1,003,039
School Fund	(169,034)	125,659	(19,360)	-	-	(62,735)
Hire of facilities	195,457	102,654	-	-	-	298,111
Other funding	66,779	49,053	(1,986)	-	-	113,846
	<u>1,096,241</u>	<u>277,366</u>	<u>(21,346)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,352,261</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	830,589	7,002,043	(6,820,418)	(801,502)	-	210,712
Pupil Premium	14,018	476,928	(490,946)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	43,893	(43,893)	-	-	-
PE & Sports Grant	78,521	82,940	(161,461)	-	-	-
Teaching School	86,463	470,468	(79,026)	-	-	477,905
Other DfE/ESFA	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	13,912	8,395,954	(8,316,277)	-	-	93,589
Covid catch up premium	20,038	-	(20,038)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	68,513	(68,513)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(13,635,000)	-	(2,013,000)	-	13,742,000	(1,906,000)
	<u>(12,591,459)</u>	<u>16,547,739</u>	<u>(18,020,572)</u>	<u>(801,502)</u>	<u>13,742,000</u>	<u>(1,123,794)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed Asset Fund	24,524,982	104,840	(882,736)	801,502	-	24,548,588

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b>11,933,523</b>	<b>16,652,579</b>	<b>(18,903,308)</b>	-	<b>13,742,000</b>	<b>23,424,794</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>13,029,764</b>	<b>16,929,945</b>	<b>(18,924,654)</b>	-	<b>13,742,000</b>	<b>24,777,055</b>

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

**Restricted General Funds:**

The General Annual Grant is subject to specific expenditure within the Academy's declared objectives. Other DfE/ESFA grants relate to Government funding for the provision of education by the Academy and have been fully expended in the year. Funding is repayable if the Academy does not meet all funding requirements.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is also included within this fund.

**Restricted Fixed Asset Funds:**

These funds relate to the land, buildings, and other fixed assets which are owned by the Academy and used in accordance with the charitable objectives.

**Unrestricted funds:**

Represents income generated by the School (such as lettings and hire facilities) and any other donations or investment income, which is not restricted for any specific purpose and can be spent as determined by the Governing Body.

Transfers between funds relate to amounts expended on fixed assets from unrestricted and restricted funds which have been used for the acquisition of fixed assets during the year.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

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**16. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2021 £</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Funds inherited on conversion	1,003,039	-	-	-	-	1,003,039
School Fund	217,062	9,331	(13,897)	(381,530)	-	(169,034)
Hire of facilities	178,389	18,135	(1,067)	-	-	195,457
Other funding	35,985	38,701	(7,907)	-	-	66,779
	<u>1,434,475</u>	<u>66,167</u>	<u>(22,871)</u>	<u>(381,530)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,096,241</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,012,109	(5,181,520)	-	-	830,589
Pupil Premium	103,982	388,117	(478,081)	-	-	14,018
UIFSM	-	39,348	(39,348)	-	-	-
PE & Sports Grant	42,715	73,786	(37,980)	-	-	78,521
Trust Capacity Fund	-	145,608	(145,608)	-	-	-
Pre opening grant	-	110,000	(110,000)	-	-	-
Teaching School	16,886	145,575	(75,998)	-	-	86,463
Year 7 catch up premium	101,022	-	(101,022)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	3,147	7,501,036	(7,490,271)	-	-	13,912
Covid catch up premium	-	149,860	(129,822)	-	-	20,038
Other DfE/ESFA Covid 19 funding	-	55,427	(55,427)	-	-	-
Other Covid 19 funding	-	70,940	(70,940)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(8,816,000)	(771,000)	(1,038,000)	-	(3,010,000)	(13,635,000)

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**16. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2020</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	(8,548,248)	13,928,806	(14,962,017)	-	(3,010,000)	(12,591,459)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Capital grant income	-	281,775	-	(281,775)	-	-
Fixed Asset Fund	22,355,759	2,170,000	(714,216)	713,439	-	24,524,982
Capital Donations	-	50,134	-	(50,134)	-	-
	22,355,759	2,501,909	(714,216)	381,530	-	24,524,982
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	13,807,511	16,430,715	(15,676,233)	381,530	(3,010,000)	11,933,523
<b>Total funds</b>	15,241,986	16,496,882	(15,699,104)	-	(3,010,000)	13,029,764

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

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
The Milestone School	221,441	750,721
Paternoster School	1,750	13,702
Battledown Centre	525,591	496,163
Belmont School	1,326,819	707,402
Willow Primary	58,866	171,794
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,134,467	2,139,782
Restricted fixed asset fund	24,548,588	24,524,982
Pension reserve	(1,906,000)	(13,635,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,777,055</b>	<b>13,029,764</b>

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

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff costs</b>	<b>Other support staff costs</b>	<b>Educational supplies</b>	<b>Other costs excluding depreciation</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
The Milestone School	5,513,493	609,421	387,008	460,361	<b>6,970,283</b>
Paternoster School	1,339,263	112,095	82,497	206,179	<b>1,740,034</b>
Battledown Centre	1,159,057	185,904	88,983	82,744	<b>1,516,688</b>
Belmont School	2,353,474	185,024	211,766	224,251	<b>2,974,515</b>
Willow Primary	913,090	115,908	272,638	138,715	<b>1,440,351</b>
Teaching School	79,026	-	-	-	<b>79,026</b>
Central Funds	586,430	2,086,322	185,489	462,780	<b>3,321,021</b>
<b>Academy Trust</b>	<b>11,943,833</b>	<b>3,294,674</b>	<b>1,228,381</b>	<b>1,575,030</b>	<b>18,041,918</b>

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

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs</i>	<i>Other support staff costs</i>	<i>Educational supplies</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
The Milestone School	5,669,613	566,024	363,699	447,413	7,046,749
Paternoster School	1,242,604	147,174	55,035	211,950	1,656,763
Battledown Centre	983,166	178,976	65,934	123,574	1,351,650
Belmont School	2,348,417	271,942	206,009	208,577	3,034,945
Willow Primary	468,784	34,283	49,490	97,928	650,485
Teaching School	35,914	9,209	30,875	-	75,998
Central Funds	-	872,681	102,539	193,078	1,168,298
<b>Academy Trust</b>	<b>10,748,498</b>	<b>2,080,289</b>	<b>873,581</b>	<b>1,282,520</b>	<b>14,984,888</b>

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**17. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	24,548,588	<b>24,548,588</b>
Current assets	1,352,261	1,483,348	-	<b>2,835,609</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(701,142)	-	<b>(701,142)</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,906,000)	-	<b>(1,906,000)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,352,261</b>	<b>(1,123,794)</b>	<b>24,548,588</b>	<b>24,777,055</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	24,524,982	24,524,982
Current assets	1,096,241	2,165,994	-	3,262,235
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,122,453)	-	(1,122,453)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(13,635,000)	-	(13,635,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,096,241</b>	<b>(12,591,459)</b>	<b>24,524,982</b>	<b>13,029,764</b>

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**18. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>(1,994,709)</b>	797,778
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>882,736</b>	714,216
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	-	(281,775)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	771,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>1,774,000</b>	875,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>239,000</b>	163,000
Bank interest	<b>(253)</b>	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	<b>(166,737)</b>	1,000,396
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>(511,347)</b>	246,674
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>222,690</b>	4,286,289

**19. Cash flows from financing activities**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Bank interest	<b>253</b>	-
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>253</b>	-

**20. Cash flows from investing activities**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Transferred on conversion	-	(2,170,000)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(906,342)</b>	(713,439)
Capital grants from DfE Group	-	281,775
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(906,342)</b>	(2,601,664)

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**21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>2,307,862</b>	2,991,261
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,307,862</b>	2,991,261

**22. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 September 2021</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>2,991,261</b>	<b>(593,363)</b>	<b>2,397,898</b>
	<b>2,991,261</b>	<b>(593,363)</b>	<b>2,397,898</b>

**23. Pension commitments**

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 Gloucestershire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £293,005 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (*2021 - £265,723*) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £964,657 (2021 - £873,596).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £1,991,000 (2021 - £1,669,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,675,000 (2021 - £1,503,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 316,000 (2021 - £166,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 30.5 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 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 year. 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.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	%	%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>4.25</b>	1.65
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.35</b>	3.2
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>3.05</b>	2.9

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

	<b>2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>21.7</b>	21.9
Females	<b>24.1</b>	24.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>22.6</b>	22.9
Females	<b>25.8</b>	26.0

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	£000	£000
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	<b>2,110</b>	3,485
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	<b>220</b>	360
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate (CPI)	<b>1,910</b>	3,075

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	<b>At 31</b>	<i>At 31 August</i>
	<b>August 2022</b>	<i>2021</i>
	£	£
Equities	<b>9,640,000</b>	9,058,000
Corporate bonds	<b>2,694,000</b>	2,717,400
Property	<b>1,559,000</b>	905,800
Cash and other liquid assets	<b>284,000</b>	258,800
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>14,177,000</b>	12,940,000

**SAND ACADEMIES TRUST**  
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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

The actual return on scheme assets was £-984,000 (2021 - £1,689,000).

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(3,449,000)	(2,378,000)
Interest income	230,000	166,000
Interest cost	(469,000)	(329,000)
Liability transferred in on existing academies joining the Trust	-	(771,000)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	13,742,000	(3,010,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>10,054,000</b>	<b>(6,322,000)</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>26,575,000</b>	<b>17,413,000</b>
Interest cost	469,000	329,000
Employee contributions	316,000	286,000
Current service cost	3,449,000	2,378,000
Changes in financial assumptions	(14,726,000)	4,699,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the Trust	-	1,470,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>16,083,000</b>	<b>26,575,000</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>12,940,000</b>	<b>8,597,000</b>
Transferred in on existing academies joining the Trust	-	699,000
Interest income	230,000	166,000
Employee contributions	316,000	286,000
Return on assets	(984,000)	1,689,000
Employer contributions	1,675,000	1,503,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>14,177,000</b>	<b>12,940,000</b>

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**24. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	9,552	9,552
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,152	21,704
	<u>21,704</u>	<u>31,256</u>

**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 £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

**26. Related party transactions**

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

L Dance (Trustee) and C Haslam (Trustee) are also Trustees of The Chamwell Centre Charity. During the year the Trust recharged £72,324 (2021: £38,766) to The Chamwell Centre Charity for staff and site management costs. £nil (2021: 11,064) was outstanding at the year end. The Trust paid invoices of £117,952 (2021: £58,909) to the Chamwell Centre Charity during the year for use of the Chamwell building, £nil (2021: £13,936) was outstanding at the year end.