

Company registration number 08270151 (England and Wales)

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

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TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

B Hilton
I Whitfield
D Bowes
D Walker

Trustees

I Cochrane
D Collins
V Ingleton
J H Smith (Accounting Officer)
I Whitfield (Chair)
D J Groark
V N Robson (Appointed 28 March 2024)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer J H Smith
- Director of Finance and Business Development G Pigott

Company secretary

G Pigott

Company registration number

08270151 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Tudhoe Colliery Primary School
Front Street
Tudhoe
Spennymoor
County Durham
DL16 6TJ
United Kingdom

Academies operated

Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery
Shield Row Primary School
Dene House Primary School
South Hetton Primary
Tudhoe Colliery Primary School
Acre Rigg Academy
Victoria Lane Academy

Location

Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham

Principal

T Page
J Cooke
L Blake
N Mayo
J Smith
J Craggs
H Whitfield

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
19 Market Place
Durham
County Durham
DH1 3NL
United Kingdom

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law.

Tudhoe Learning Trust operates seven academies for pupils aged 3-11 serving a catchment area in County Durham. It has a pupil capacity of 1886 and had a roll of 1612 in the school spring census 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The 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 Trust.

Details of the Directors who served during the year and to the date these financial statements are approved are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Tudhoe Learning Trust has taken out insurance to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, error or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. We also have professional indemnity insurance for Officers.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

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

The membership of the Board is as follows

- Up to three Directors appointed by the Members
- Staff Directors appointed by the Members provided the total number of Directors who are employees does not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.
- The Chief Executive
- Additional Directors if appointed under Articles 61, 61A or 67A
- Further Directors if appointed under Article 62.

The Directors other than the Chief Executive Officer are appointed for a term of four years.

A review of the board was undertaken following a skills audit, a recruitment exercise followed which has ensured our board is made up in line with Education department recommendations. Currently we have two vacancies on the board.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The induction and training of new Directors and individuals school governors depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training will be provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters.

New Directors and governors will receive an induction, be given a tour of the schools and a chance to meet the staff. They will be provided with copies of policies procedures and other documents they will need to fulfil their role.

All Directors use of software called Governor Hub which gives them access to minutes, agendas, declaration of interests and other items. Policies are listed on the Trust website and Directors are made aware of these during their training.

Each Director undertakes training via The National Governing Association Website which the Trust subscribes to.

Organisational structure

The Trust comprises seven schools, Tudhoe Colliery Primary School, Acre Rigg Academy, Dene House Primary, South Hetton Primary, Shield Row Primary, Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery and Victoria Lane Academy.

The Members oversee the workings of the Trust and ensure it meets its obligations. The strategy and governance working group proposes strategy to the Directors for approval. The Board of Directors are the decision makers. They are responsible for setting general policy, adopting the annual development plan and budget, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Accounting Officer for the Trust.

The chair of each local governing body meet termly to discuss and adopt best practice on governance between the schools.

The individual school heads meet half termly to share information and methods of implementation of strategy. Each individual school has its own local governing body with the remit to run the school according to the principals of the Trust. There is a scheme of delegation which clearly sets out roles and responsibilities within the Trust.

The Trust has developed and formulated a 5 Year strategic plan.

The CEO is responsible for implementing the policies laid down by the Directors and reporting back to them. He also line managers the head Teachers of the schools.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Directors consider that they, together with the senior management team (detailed on page 1) comprise the key management personnel of Tudhoe learning Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis.

Trust Directors will determine the pay range of the Trust Management Team for a vacancy prior to advertising it.

On appointment directors will determine the starting salary with that range to be offered to the successful candidate.

The Directors give their time freely and no Director other than the CEO and the deputy Head of Tudhoe Colliery Primary School receive a salary in year, however Directors are remunerated for expenses detailed in note 13 if they wish to claim.

As per Tudhoe Learning Trust pay policy all staff with responsibilities for teaching and learning are paid in line with the schools Teachers pay and Conditions (STPC) other personnel are paid in line with Durham County Council national pay scales and spinal column points.

The Trust's pay review committee reviews the pay and remuneration of CEO and Head teachers annually. The Committee ensures performance is evaluated against appraisal targets.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	-
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Recruitment/selection and equal opportunities

The Trust has a Recruitment and selection Policy that takes into account safer recruitment and is fully inclusive. In applying the policy the Trust will not unlawfully discriminate in respect of any characteristic as defined under the Equality Act.

The Trust employs a Human Resource Manager who monitors the operation of all trust policies and procedures to ensure it is a fair and equitable framework in which it operates in.

Communication

Within all Trust schools there would be various meetings held by the Head or Deputy Head Teacher to ensure all staff are communicated with. Each school has its own governing body who have termly meetings. Each Head teacher attends the Leadership team meeting. Chair of Governors attends the termly Chair of Governors meetings. All these meetings are discussed with Directors of the Trust at their meetings.

Consultation

Communication takes place locally with each school via staff meetings and then extra meetings are called if there are any specific issues to be discussed or information that requires sharing.

Performance Schemes

We have a very rigid and formal pay scale structure that does not allow for reward link remuneration. However the leadership team and teachers only progress through their pay scale with performance management.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Economic Factor affecting the Trust

Our biggest risk is the reduction of pupil numbers which would currently reduce funding from the ESFA. The Trust is aware of the need to recruit and retain suitable staff members with succession planning in mind. Changes in government policy could also affect the trust.

Facilities and buildings are old and submission to grant funds such as the Condition Improvement fund are made where possible to assist with the cost of replacing.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Tudhoe Learning Trust is a family of schools in County Durham, each with its own identity and heritage with a collective aim – to work and learn together; always striving to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential, developing the skills and knowledge required for an ever-changing world. **OUR CHILDREN COME FIRST – NO EXCUSES.**

Distinctive Features:

1. Our philosophy is to shout the name of the individual schools and whisper the name of the Trust.
2. We believe in celebrating the differences between our schools, sharing good practice and collaborative working.
3. All of our schools have a distinctive feel about them, but all of them buy into our collective Vision.
4. School improvement is always focused upon the needs of our children first and foremost.
5. By tapping into the considerable skills and talents of the staff within our Trust, we support and challenge one another, ensuring the outcomes for our children are the best that they can possibly be.
6. We have a philosophy of leadership at all levels, with everyone within our Trust able to learn and improve together.

Our aspirations as a Trust are built upon these six pillars:

- **Education** - To provide a world class education for every child in each of our academies.
- **People** - The Trust will recruit, develop & retain a motivated workforce of the highest quality
- **Capacity** - To grow organically to ensure all our children get the best possible education.
- **Governance** - Have efficient, effective, robust governance & business arrangements that maximise learning.
- **Premises** - To ensure environments are vibrant, engaging and support a love for learning.
- **Accountability** - Robust procedures which ensure cutting edge systems lead to continual improvement.

Objectives, Strategies & Activities

The Priorities of the trust during this reporting period included the following:

1. To continue to increase the numbers of pupils at/exceeding age-related expectations at all key assessment points.
2. To continue to strengthen Governance at Director level and LGB level.
3. Ensure the Head Teacher Board and Chair of Governor Board develop strategically to support the work of the Board of Directors.
4. To develop a strategic Trust led approach to safeguarding.
5. To ensure all of our schools are good or better every day.
6. Develop a strategic approach to the School Improvement Champion and Early Years Champion roles.
7. To manage change across the Trust effectively – two new HT positions along with two recent HT appointments.
8. Continue to reduce staff and pupil absence across the Trust.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Outcomes from Statutory assessment:

Profile	Trust	National (2023)
Disadvantaged	55%	27%
SEND	25%	13%

EXS+	Trust Average			National Average		
	All	PP	SEND	All	PP	SEND
Reading	70%	58%	41%	73		
Writing	67%	56%	29%	72		
GPS	63%	51%	36%	72		
Maths	64%	55%	36%	73		

GDS	Trust Average			National Average		
	All	PP	SEND	All	PP	SEND
Reading	21%	11%	9%	28		
Writing	15%	6%	3%	13		
GPS	19%	9%	4%	28		
Maths	9%	5%	4%	23		

- 4/7 schools were at or above NA for reading. The range for reading was 70% between the highest and lowest performing school.
- 4/7 schools were at or above NA for writing, with a range of 37% between the highest and lowest performing schools.
- Outcomes in SPAG weren't quite as strong as writing (4% lower), with only 2/7 schools above NA. The range was 43% with 5 schools performing to a similar standard (50% - 60%).
- Outcomes in maths were 3% up on last year but still below NA. Only 3/7 schools were at least in line with NA, with a range of 52% between the highest performing school and the lowest performing school.
- For GDS, outcomes were below the 2023 NA in the majority of schools for GPS and maths. Reading was better with some schools being at or above. Writing however, was above NA at GDS with a range of 22%.

ACTION:

- Improve outcomes in GPS at EXS and GDS in all schools, with a focus on spelling so that outcomes are similar to those seen in writing.
- Improve outcomes maths so that the gap between the highest and lowest performing schools narrows. Improve outcomes at GDS by improving children's declarative and procedural knowledge of times-tables and arithmetic in the majority of schools.
- Continue to ensure children reach positive outcomes in English.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission 'Public benefit running a charity' (PB2) in setting objectives and aims and planning what activities the Trust should undertake. All charitable activities are undertaken to further the advancement of education to all students in its care and partnership organisations in the wider community.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Key performance indicators

The Trust had three inspections during the reporting period (South Hetton, Shield Row and Victoria Lane); each school was recognised for being good in all areas. Reading outcomes improved again this year as did maths for EXS+, however maths is still an area for development in our schools. Despite the Trust having nearly twice the number of PP & SEND pupils, our outcomes in all subjects remain close to or at National Standard.

Going concern

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

Financial review

Income and Expenditure

Most of the Trust's income is obtained for the DfE via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in the form of General Annual Grant, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Early Year funding and SEN funding was received from Durham County Council.

Total revenue income was £111,526,504 and expenditure funded by revenue grants was £11,579,288 giving a deficit of £52,784 excluding the movement on capital funds and the pension reserve the in year .

The provisions of FRS 102 relating to retirement benefits have been applied resulting in a decrease in the pension deficit of £430,000. The deficit is now £1,150,000.

All the expenditure in the year was in furtherance of the Trust's objectives.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £12,745,997 and the movement in the year are show in note 13. All the assets are used exclusively for providing education and associate support services to the pupils of the Trust.

At 31 August 2024 the Trust held fund balances (excluding the pension deficit) of £1,426,693 comprising of £627,792 restricted funds and £798,901 unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Directors review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitment and the nature of reserves.

The main financial risk to the Trust is that of managing its short term cash flow efficiently. To mitigate this risk it has been agreed that an appropriate reserve balance would equate to 4 weeks worth of salary expenditure for each school being approximately £620k including HMRC and pension liabilities.

The Trust currently holds unrestricted funds of £799k and General Annual Grant of £581k (see note 18) included within unrestricted funds is £82k of designated funds which are pots held by the Trust for self insurance absence. This is explained in note 18.

Total free reserves (including the designated reserves) are £799k.

Total reserves are £12,986,295 which includes restricted fixed asset reserves of £12,709,602.

The Trust has a pension deficit of £1,150,000 but a recovery plan is in place. The Trust contributes a % to fund the deficit, which is added to the pension costs as this is recovered on a monthly basis through the payroll. No reserves will be used to fund the deficit.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Investment policy

The Trust invests surplus funds in an interest bearing account. The return on the investee is reviewed before the investment is made to ensure there is a maximum return, whilst minimising risks to the sum invested. At the year end no funds were placed on deposit.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Tudhoe Learning Trust has been through a process to assess its current and future risks and to identify and implement strategies for addressing risks. The risk register is reviewed by the Trust board of Directors on an annual basis.

Risks include;

- Physical Assets
- Business Continuity
- Financial
- Technological
- Third Party Liability
- Environmental
- Legal and compliance
- Market and sector
- Personnel
- Political
- Increasing costs relating to staff pay and conditions.

Our biggest risk is the reduction of pupil numbers which would currently reduce funding from the ESFA. The Trust is aware of the need to recruit and retain suitable staff members and is considering succession planning for members of the leadership team.

Changes to government policy are kept unreview and risks to the organisation assessed. The Trust is aware of risk and is proactive.

The Trust considers that there are systems and internal controls in place to identify and minimise any risks, but however recognise there are a number of ongoing risks:

- Unable to continue to secure revenue to fund the ongoing business of the MAT and its academies
- Being unable to increase the number of pupils in each school
- Impact on pension liabilities on academies running cost
- Future changes to education legislation and ESFA funding
- Achievement of a Good or Outstanding OFSTED grade
- Continuing to secure and retain good quality teachers
- Financial pressures resulting on having to set a deficit budget.
- The lack of capital funding and maintaining our buildings to a suitable standard.

Fundraising

This is a minor part of the activities we undertake as a Trust, all fundraising is carried out in schools by Teachers and Teaching Assistants and is mostly aimed at parents and families. An example of what we would raise funds for would be 'Children in Need' or ' Non Uniform Day'. All funds raised are either for the benefit of charities where this would be paid over in fun. Where funds are raised for the school this is usually ring-fenced for a specific purpose.

We do not engage any professional fundraisers.

All fundraising is monitored by the Trust finance department.

Any complaints would fall under our complaints policy and would be handled under this policy.

All money raised is voluntary and no cold calling is undertaken.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Plans for future periods

- To continue to ensure our children have the world class education they deserve
- To ensure all our schools continually strengthen and improve
- To continue to support vulnerable schools
- To welcome good schools that are aligned to our ethos and values.
- Achieve better health work Gold award

Auditor

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

The Directors appointed Azets as the Trust's external auditors from February 2020. Clive Owen have been appointed as internal auditors.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 06 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

I Whitfield
Chair



TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

As Directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Tudhoe Learning 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 no absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As Directors we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirement of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Tudhoe Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included supplements that described in the directors' report. The Board of Directors has formally met 3 times during the year however communication takes place outside of these meetings if decisions are to be made.

In the current year the committee discussed, reviewed and approved budgets, received and approved the annual accounts and discussed and approved a number of updated policies and procedures.

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
I Cochrane	3	3
D Collins	2	3
V Ingleton	2	3
J H Smith (Accounting Officer)	2	3
I Whitfield (Chair)	2	3
D J Groark	1	3
V N Robson (Appointed 28 March 2024)	2	2

We keep the composition of our Board under regular review, we appointed one new director in March 2024. We would like to appoint an additional director with experience in the legal field, however this has proved to be difficult. We carry out annual self assessments of the Board skills.

Conflicts of interest

The Trust manages conflict in a number of ways. The Trust keeps a Register of Interest and publishes these on the Trust website. The Register of Interests is updated annually. If quotes were received from a company that appears on the Register of Interests and no other company were available to be use, we would take this to the Audit Committee for approval. If a Director was on the Audit Committee who had declared an interest, they would be asked to leave the meeting so they would have no influence over the decision making. At each meeting all Directors are asked to declare and conflict or any interests. The Trust also uses Companies House to check that all interests in other companies have been declared.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Governance reviews

The trust continually reviews policy updates, governance structure and the scheme of delegation, to confirm that they are 'fit for purpose'. The Trust has reviewed our websites undertaken by our School Improvement Champion as part the annual independent governance checks during the year. During the year the Trust continued to develop governance to further embed good practice develop consistency throughout the Trust.

The ongoing development of LGBs ensures governors undertake their responsibilities for the review of academy performance as defined by the scheme of delegation. Directors are kept well appraised of school performance and Progress Group meetings run by LGBs. Directors are mindful of the need to increase leadership and support functions in line with Trust growth and are satisfied that appropriate action has been taken to minimise areas of risk and build on resource and expertise in key areas to facilitate Trust development.

Trustees continue to receive timely information regarding the development and progress at all schools, as well as receiving information from the CEO; a detailed account of each school is delivered at directors' meetings to provide progress updates of specific performance and improvement issues. Directors are confident that future financial forecasts are strong which will allow the Board to implement improvement plans that will aim to increase pupil numbers and academic results for pupils. In this reporting period the Chair of the Board visited each of the schools accompanied by the CEO to gather information first-hand regarding the issues and successes of our schools.

During the year Directors and LGB members have been engaged in ongoing skills analysis and training through the NGA. Directors, headteachers and trust central staff are clear in their responsibilities regarding risk management; information is clear and concise to ensure actions are timely and appropriate. A new Trust self-evaluation document written against the DfE's Trust quality descriptors has been trialled this year. This in turn has informed our strategic plan for continual growth and excellence. The Audit Committee commissioned a full review of the Trust Scheme of Delegation which will be approved by Directors in the autumn 2024.

Review of value for money

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

The Accountancy Officer considers how the Trusts use of resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the Board of Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The Trust has carried out detailed benchmarking using 'Schools Resources Management self – assessment dashboard tool' for all schools within the Trust. This information is shared with all Governors.

The Accounting Officer for the trust has delivered improvement for money during the year by

Improving Education Results

- We continue to monitor staffing levels and deploy staff efficiently making use of our self funded staff insurance scheme to enable us to support 1:1 staffing where required.

Financial Governance and Oversight

- We review reports and the regular monitoring of data used for Trustees meetings. We also review our benchmarking data.

Investing in our Staff

- We have invested in our staff by successfully gaining the Gold Award for better health at work award
- We have continued to participate in Simply Health Scheme which has resulted in health benefits for staff

Better Purchasing

- We use frameworks approved by the ESFA and D of E to achieve best value.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 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 Tudhoe Learning Trust for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Directors
- Regular reviews by the Audit committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecast 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 Directors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and Clive Owen are engaged to provide their services to enable the Directors to carry out their responsibility for internal assurance.

The Directors of the Trust have set up a four year programme to enable the internal auditor to perform a range of checks throughout the Trust. In 2023/24 their programme included

- Procurement
- Website Compliance
- Follow up Assurance

On an annual basis the internal auditors report will be presented to the audit committee with any actions recommended and what actions have been taken.

The programme of work was completed as planned and no significant issues were found. Minor improvements have been recommended and these will be implemented.

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 auditors
- The financial management and governance self — assessment programme and school resource management self- assessment tool
- The work of the executive managers within academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The work of external auditors

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 06 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



J H Smith
Accounting Officer



I Whitfield
Chair

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

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



J H Smith
Accounting Officer

06 December 2024

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of Tudhoe Learning Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 06 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

I Whitfield
Chair



TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Use of our report

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

Azets Audit Services

Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

16/12/2024
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
United Kingdom
TS22 5TB

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Tudhoe Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Tudhoe Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Tudhoe Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 18 December 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of Internal Assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls
- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under ESFA delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

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

Azets Audit Services

Reporting Accountant
Azets Audit Services

Dated: 16/12/2024

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	19,945	-	44,237	64,182	905,788
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	85,038	11,106,933	-	11,191,971	10,706,345
Other trading activities	5	297,901	-	-	297,901	257,696
Investments	6	16,687	-	-	16,687	7,403
Total		419,571	11,106,933	44,237	11,570,741	11,877,232
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	238,970	-	-	238,970	246,398
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	65,114	11,195,204	379,672	11,639,990	11,843,011
Total	7	304,084	11,195,204	379,672	11,878,960	12,089,409
Net income/(expenditure)		115,487	(88,271)	(335,435)	(308,219)	(212,177)
Transfers between funds	18	-	32,428	(32,428)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	350,000	-	350,000	1,273,000
Net movement in funds		115,487	294,157	(367,863)	41,781	1,060,823
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		683,414	(816,365)	13,077,465	12,944,514	11,883,691
Total funds carried forward		798,901	(522,208)	12,709,602	12,986,295	12,944,514

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	20,492	-	885,296	905,788
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	68,926	10,637,419	-	10,706,345
Other trading activities	5	257,696	-	-	257,696
Investments	6	7,403	-	-	7,403
Total		354,517	10,637,419	885,296	11,877,232
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	246,398	-	-	246,398
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	76,696	11,385,363	380,952	11,843,011
Total	7	323,094	11,385,363	380,952	12,089,409
Net income/(expenditure)		31,423	(747,944)	504,344	(212,177)
Transfers between funds	18	-	649,598	(649,598)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	1,273,000	-	1,273,000
Net movement in funds		31,423	1,174,654	(145,254)	1,060,823
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		651,991	(1,991,019)	13,222,719	11,883,691
Total funds carried forward		683,414	(816,365)	13,077,465	12,944,514

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

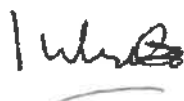
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		12,745,997		12,965,876
Current assets					
Debtors	14	428,041		948,477	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,027,621		2,077,615	
		2,455,662		3,026,092	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(978,991)		(1,362,641)	
Net current assets			1,476,671		1,663,451
Total assets less current liabilities			14,222,668		14,629,327
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(86,373)		(104,813)
Net assets excluding pension liability			14,136,295		14,524,514
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		(1,150,000)		(1,580,000)
Total net assets			12,986,295		12,944,514
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			12,709,602		13,077,465
- Restricted income funds			627,792		763,635
- Pension reserve			(1,150,000)		(1,580,000)
Total restricted funds			12,187,394		12,261,100
Unrestricted income funds	18		798,901		683,414
Total funds			12,986,295		12,944,514

The accounts on pages 22 to 47 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 06 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

I Whitfield
Chair



Company registration number 08270151 (England and Wales)

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21		60,818		(570,872)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		16,687		7,403	
Capital grants from DfE Group		45,905		812,554	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		(1,668)		72,742	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(159,793)		(122,822)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(98,869)		769,877
Cash flows from financing activities					
New other loan		-		63,898	
Repayment of other loan		(11,820)		(10,279)	
Finance costs		(123)		-	
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities			(11,943)		53,619
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(49,994)		252,624
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,077,615		1,824,991
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,027,621		2,077,615

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the 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 accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold land & buildings	125 years
Leasehold improvements	10 years
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10 years

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical areas of judgement

Land and buildings

Some of the trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The land and buildings are valued on the basis of valuations provided by the ESFA/local authority

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated as to write off the cost of an asset off over its useful economic life. The accounting policies are disclosed in the accounting policy above.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	44,237	44,237	885,296
Other donations	19,945	-	19,945	20,492
	<u>19,945</u>	<u>44,237</u>	<u>64,182</u>	<u>905,788</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,065,994	8,065,994	8,011,474
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	113,209	113,209	97,536
- Pupil premium	-	1,142,124	1,142,124	1,121,260
- PE and sports premium	-	125,690	125,690	126,380
- Rates	-	29,996	29,996	28,465
- Teachers pension grants	-	76,936	76,936	1,975
- Teachers pay grants	-	150,644	150,644	5,581
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	290,154	290,154	123,299
- National tutor grant	-	19,896	19,896	19,072
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	248,503
	-	10,014,643	10,014,643	9,783,545
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	967,161	967,161	724,975
Special educational projects	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
	-	982,161	982,161	739,975
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	110,129	110,129	113,899
Other incoming resources	19,924	-	19,924	3,265
Total funding for educational operations	19,924	11,106,933	11,126,857	10,640,684
Catering	65,114	-	65,114	65,661
Total funding	85,038	11,106,933	11,191,971	10,706,345

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Hire of facilities	14,986	-	14,986	12,309
Catering income	1,707	-	1,707	23
Parental contributions	75,284	-	75,284	109,269
Other income	205,924	-	205,924	136,095
	<u>297,901</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>297,901</u>	<u>257,696</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Short term deposits	16,687	-	16,687	7,403

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	99,513	-	139,457	238,970	246,398
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,513,572	-	680,952	8,194,524	7,669,704
- Allocated support costs	1,388,168	1,162,832	894,466	3,445,466	4,173,307
	<u>9,001,253</u>	<u>1,162,832</u>	<u>1,714,875</u>	<u>11,878,960</u>	<u>12,089,409</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	36,502	35,421
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	379,672	372,420
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	8,532
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	16,250	14,500
- Other services	5,200	4,800
Bank and loan interest	123	-
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	64,000	100,000

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Central services

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

- Teaching staff (including time spent by CEO on running the Trust)
- Finance and administrative staff
- Human resources
- Early years leadership
- School Improvement Champion and advisory work

The Trust charges for these services via a recharge of 5.1% of budgeted income.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery	111,086	102,383
Shield Row Primary School	54,312	50,534
Dene House Primary School	89,307	85,105
South Hetton Primary	61,804	60,705
Tudhoe Colliery Primary School	61,444	57,248
Acre Rigg Academy	84,833	85,197
Victoria Lane Academy	64,579	58,146
	<u>527,365</u>	<u>499,318</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Educational operations	-	8,194,524	8,194,524	7,669,704
Support costs				
Educational operations	65,114	3,380,352	3,445,466	4,173,307
	<u>65,114</u>	<u>11,574,876</u>	<u>11,639,990</u>	<u>11,843,011</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,388,168	1,529,963
Depreciation	379,672	380,952
Technology costs	135,686	134,828
Premises costs	783,160	1,407,942
Legal costs	3,451	3,267
Other support costs	725,242	689,484
Governance costs	30,087	26,871
	<u>3,445,466</u>	<u>4,173,307</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	6,574,564	6,265,835
Social security costs	646,766	611,666
Pension costs	1,447,813	1,488,592
Staff costs - employees	8,669,143	8,364,093
Agency staff costs	321,601	206,609
Staff restructuring costs	10,509	10,000
	<u>9,001,253</u>	<u>8,580,702</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	87,446	68,828
Total staff expenditure	<u>9,088,699</u>	<u>8,649,530</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	10,509	10,000
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Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	84	85
Administration and support	137	143
Management	3	2
	<u>224</u>	<u>230</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	3
£70,001 - £80,000	3	6
£80,001 - £90,000	2	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £299,803 (2023: £283,129).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

J H Smith (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer):

- Remuneration £145,001 - £150,000 (2023: £135,001- £140,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £30,001 - £35,000 (2023: £30,001 - £35,000)

During the year, there were no other expenses paid to trustees.

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

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £588 (2023: £1,165). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land & buildings £	Leashold improvements £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	12,334,141	1,945,697	530,340	335,058	15,145,236
Additions	-	36,879	101,461	21,453	159,793
Disposals	-	(11,305)	-	-	(11,305)
At 31 August 2024	12,334,141	1,971,271	631,801	356,511	15,293,724
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	913,485	743,979	287,577	234,319	2,179,360
On disposals	-	(11,305)	-	-	(11,305)
Charge for the year	98,673	158,286	96,885	25,828	379,672
At 31 August 2024	1,012,158	890,960	384,462	260,147	2,547,727
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	11,321,983	1,080,311	247,339	96,364	12,745,997
At 31 August 2023	11,420,656	1,201,718	242,763	100,739	12,965,876

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	7,824	19,049
VAT recoverable	70,725	211,318
Other debtors	-	23,799
Prepayments and accrued income	349,492	694,311
	428,041	948,477

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	17,983	11,363
Trade creditors	135,183	397,316
Other taxation and social security	142,504	135,612
Other creditors	180,802	241,802
Accruals and deferred income	502,519	576,548
	978,991	1,362,641

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	86,373	104,813
	<u>86,373</u>	<u>104,813</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Analysis of loans		
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	104,356	116,176
Less: included in current liabilities	(17,983)	(11,363)
	<u>86,373</u>	<u>104,813</u>
Amounts included above	86,373	104,813
	<u>86,373</u>	<u>104,813</u>
Instalments not due within five years	33,504	27,413
	<u>33,504</u>	<u>27,413</u>
	<u>33,504</u>	<u>27,413</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	17,983	11,363
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	17,983	19,350
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	34,886	58,050
Due in more than five years	33,504	27,413
	<u>104,356</u>	<u>116,176</u>
	<u>104,356</u>	<u>116,176</u>

The loan balances comprises of six Salix loans and two CIF loans, the six Salix loans have an 8 year term one of the CIF loans has a term of 10 years and one has a term of 5 years. Interest is being charged at a rate of 5.36% on one of the CIF loans and at 5.58% on the other CIF loan, with the six Salix loans being interest free. The first loan will be fully repaid by August 2026 and the last loan will be fully repaid by August 2034.

17 Deferred Income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	127,700	103,386
	<u>127,700</u>	<u>103,386</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	103,386	139,618
Released from previous years	(103,386)	(139,618)
Resources deferred in the year	127,700	103,386
	<u>127,700</u>	<u>103,386</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	127,700	103,386
	<u>127,700</u>	<u>103,386</u>

Deferred income includes rates relief, universal infant free school meals funding and trip income received in advance of the following academic year.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	608,798	8,065,994	(8,125,930)	32,428	581,290
Start up grants	62,752	-	(16,250)	-	46,502
UIFSM	-	113,209	(113,209)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,142,124	(1,142,124)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	110,129	(110,129)	-	-
Other government grants	-	982,161	(982,161)	-	-
Teacher pay grant	-	150,644	(150,644)	-	-
Teacher pension grant	-	76,936	(76,936)	-	-
PE and sports premium	13,085	125,690	(138,775)	-	-
Rates	-	29,996	(29,996)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	19,896	(19,896)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	290,154	(290,154)	-	-
Supplementary grant	79,000	-	(79,000)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,580,000)	-	80,000	350,000	(1,150,000)
	<u>(816,365)</u>	<u>11,106,933</u>	<u>(11,195,204)</u>	<u>382,428</u>	<u>(522,208)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	10,667,677	-	(112,748)	-	10,554,929
DfE group capital grants	2,148,104	44,237	(204,770)	(98,141)	1,889,430
Capital expenditure from GAG	211,213	-	(39,942)	65,713	236,984
Donated assets	50,471	-	(22,212)	-	28,259
	<u>13,077,465</u>	<u>44,237</u>	<u>(379,672)</u>	<u>(32,428)</u>	<u>12,709,602</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>12,261,100</u>	<u>11,151,170</u>	<u>(11,574,876)</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>12,187,394</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	620,236	419,571	(304,084)	(18,659)	717,064
Designated funds	63,178	-	-	18,659	81,837
	<u>683,414</u>	<u>419,571</u>	<u>(304,084)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>798,901</u>
Total funds	<u>12,944,514</u>	<u>11,570,741</u>	<u>(11,878,960)</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>12,986,295</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

The start up and improvement grants brought forward were additional funding supplied upon conversion to help with the costs of conversion and for the improvement of the schools.

Other DfE/ESFA grants include teachers' pay grant, universal free school meals Income, PE grant, Covid catch-up and pupil premium received.

Other government grants include income for pupils with special educational needs, early years funding and pupil premium received from the local authority.

DfE/ESFA Capital Grants consist of the devolved capital grant and capital improvement fund which has been partly spent on asset additions in the year and partly spent on extensive building repairs that have been expensed for accounting purposes. A transfer between funds has been made where appropriate. The carried forward capital fund consists of £67,961 in capital grants less £104,356 in loans repayable. The capital fund of £67,961 includes £29,511 of DFC funds and £38,450 of additional capital income.

The Inherited Fixed Asset Fund reflects the fixed assets acquired from Local Authorities on conversion. Depreciation on these assets is charged against this fund.

The designated fund relates to a staff absence allocation which each school has paid into to cover staff absence.

At 31 August 2024 the academy had restricted general and unrestricted funds of £1,426,693.

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	622,618	8,011,474	(8,674,892)	649,598	608,798
Start up grants	94,363	-	(31,611)	-	62,752
UIFSM	-	97,536	(97,536)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,121,260	(1,121,260)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	113,899	(113,899)	-	-
Other government grants	-	739,975	(739,975)	-	-
Teacher pay grant	-	5,581	(5,581)	-	-
Teacher pension grant	-	1,975	(1,975)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	126,380	(113,295)	-	13,085
Rates	-	28,465	(28,465)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	19,072	(19,072)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	123,299	(123,299)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	248,503	(169,503)	-	79,000
Pension reserve	(2,708,000)	-	(145,000)	1,273,000	(1,580,000)
	<u>(1,991,019)</u>	<u>10,637,419</u>	<u>(11,385,363)</u>	<u>1,922,598</u>	<u>(816,365)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	10,780,805	-	(113,128)	-	10,667,677
DfE group capital grants	2,149,398	885,296	(205,460)	(681,130)	2,148,104
Capital expenditure from GAG	219,758	-	(40,077)	31,532	211,213
Donated assets	72,758	-	(22,287)	-	50,471
	<u>13,222,719</u>	<u>885,296</u>	<u>(380,952)</u>	<u>(649,598)</u>	<u>13,077,465</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>11,231,700</u>	<u>11,522,715</u>	<u>(11,766,315)</u>	<u>1,273,000</u>	<u>12,261,100</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	576,210	354,517	(323,094)	12,603	620,236
Designated funds	75,781	-	-	(12,603)	63,178
	<u>651,991</u>	<u>354,517</u>	<u>(323,094)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>683,414</u>
Total funds	<u>11,883,691</u>	<u>11,877,232</u>	<u>(12,089,409)</u>	<u>1,273,000</u>	<u>12,944,514</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery	382,002	342,372
Shield Row Primary School	(111,662)	(56,533)
Dene House Primary School	186,030	154,550
South Hetton Primary	259,469	229,244
Tudhoe Colliery Primary School	130,887	106,242
Acre Rigg Academy	343,278	387,864
Victoria Lane Academy	(12,480)	544
Central services	249,169	282,766
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,426,693	1,447,049
Restricted fixed asset fund	12,709,602	13,077,465
Pension reserve	(1,150,000)	(1,580,000)
Total funds	12,986,295	12,944,514

A deficit arose at Victoria Lane due to long term sick of Head where an acting Head was appointed at an additional cost. The deficit at Shield Row arose through spend outside of their control, increase in school meals and increased energy costs.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery	1,525,911	259,068	84,227	385,933	2,255,139	2,457,884
Shield Row Primary School	779,893	165,935	60,704	203,060	1,209,592	1,078,156
Dene House Primary School	1,215,280	243,172	94,358	250,071	1,802,881	1,665,105
South Hetton Primary	900,643	197,445	69,655	220,077	1,387,820	1,387,992
Tudhoe Colliery Primary School	880,145	127,053	80,859	211,812	1,299,869	1,210,788
Acre Rigg Academy	1,159,312	193,497	134,935	249,566	1,737,310	1,625,845
Victoria Lane Academy	901,947	160,142	66,442	190,870	1,319,401	1,617,212
Central services	272,869	250,387	2,329	41,693	567,278	520,476
	7,636,000	1,596,699	593,509	1,753,082	11,579,290	11,563,458

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,745,997	12,745,997
Current assets	798,901	1,588,800	67,961	2,455,662
Current liabilities	-	(961,008)	(17,983)	(978,991)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(86,373)	(86,373)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,150,000)	-	(1,150,000)
Total net assets	798,901	(522,208)	12,709,602	12,986,295
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,965,876	12,965,876
Current assets	683,414	2,114,913	227,765	3,026,092
Current liabilities	-	(1,351,278)	(11,363)	(1,362,641)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(104,813)	(104,813)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,580,000)	-	(1,580,000)
Total net assets	683,414	(816,365)	13,077,465	12,944,514

20 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £180,872 (2023: £157,039) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,001,547 (2023: £876,574).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.1% for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

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

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	601,000	543,000
Employees' contributions	160,000	148,000
	<u>761,000</u>	<u>691,000</u>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5	3.6
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5	2.6
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.9	5.0
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5	2.6
	<u>2.5</u>	<u>2.6</u>

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.5	21.7
- Females	23.8	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.4	22.9
- Females	24.6	25.0
	<u>24.6</u>	<u>25.0</u>

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Discount rate + 0.1%	10,708,000	9,755,000
Discount rate - 0.1%	11,156,000	10,163,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	11,211,000	9,695,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year	10,643,000	10,213,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	10,960,000	10,133,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	10,894,000	9,785,000
	<u>10,894,000</u>	<u>9,785,000</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	5,387,000	4,263,000
Government bonds	987,000	888,000
Corporate bonds	939,000	787,000
Cash	186,000	167,000
Property	626,000	628,000
Other assets	1,652,000	1,641,000
Total market value of assets	9,777,000	8,374,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £769,000 (2023: £6,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	457,000	588,000
Interest income	(435,000)	(333,000)
Interest cost	499,000	433,000
Total amount recognised	521,000	688,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	9,954,000	10,601,000
Current service cost	457,000	588,000
Interest cost	499,000	433,000
Employee contributions	160,000	148,000
Actuarial gain	(16,000)	(1,600,000)
Benefits paid	(127,000)	(216,000)
At 31 August 2024	10,927,000	9,954,000

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets			
		2024	2023
		£	£
At 1 September 2023		8,374,000	7,893,000
Interest income		435,000	333,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss		334,000	(327,000)
Employer contributions		601,000	543,000
Employee contributions		160,000	148,000
Benefits paid		(127,000)	(216,000)
At 31 August 2024		<u>9,777,000</u>	<u>8,374,000</u>
21 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(308,219)	(212,177)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(44,237)	(885,296)
Investment income receivable	6	(16,687)	(7,403)
Finance costs payable		123	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	(144,000)	45,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	64,000	100,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		379,672	372,420
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	8,532
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		520,436	(352,881)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(390,270)	360,933
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>60,818</u>	<u>(570,872)</u>
22 Analysis of changes in net funds			
	1 September 2023	Cash flows	31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash	2,077,615	(49,994)	2,027,621
Loans falling due within one year	(11,363)	(6,620)	(17,983)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(104,813)	18,440	(86,373)
	<u>1,961,439</u>	<u>(38,174)</u>	<u>1,923,265</u>

TUDHOE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	41,417	28,689
Amounts due in two and five years	85,972	82,035
Amounts due after five years	-	750
	<u>127,389</u>	<u>111,474</u>

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

V Ingleton's (trustee) son is employed by the academy trust as an Associate Headteacher. T Cassap is part of the central function in a school improvement capacity. V Ingleton has had no involvement in any aspect of his terms, conditions or remuneration, which have been determined in line with the national agreements on leadership pay scales.

J Smith's (trustee and accounting office) daughter is employed by the academy trust. J Smith has had no involvement in any aspect of her terms, conditions or remuneration, which have been determined in line with the pay scales.

I Whitfield's (trustee) son is employed by the academy trust. I Whitfield has had no involvement in any aspect of his terms, conditions or remuneration, which have been determined in line with the national pay scales.

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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.