

Registered number: 06346630

The JCB Academy Trust

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2024



The JCB Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

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The JCB Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	J C Bamford Excavators Limited A Ross M Turner
Trustees	J C Bamford Excavators Limited (nominated representative is M Jeffery), Chair of Trustees and Finance Link Committee ¹ D R Bell, Vice Chair P Gwinnett J R Hublinger, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee ¹ J McGuirk (resigned 3 November 2023) L J Holmes H Ashraf (resigned 31 August 2024) W Gorman E Pilsworth-Straw G E Turner ¹ J P Wandless J Bailey (appointed 3 November 2023)

¹ Member of the Finance Link and Audit and Risk committees

Company registered number

06346630

Company name

The JCB Academy Trust

Principal and registered office

Mill Street
Rocester
Staffordshire
ST14 5IX

The JCB Academy Trust
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**Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Company secretary	J Cox (until 31 January 2024) W S Bennett (appointed from 1 February 2024)
Principal	J McGuirk (until 3 November 2023) J Bailey (appointed Principal from 3 November 2023)
Senior management team	J McGuirk, Principal and Accounting Officer (until 3 November 2023) J Bailey, Principal and Accounting Officer (from 3 November 2023) T Greene, Vice Principal J Cox, Finance and Operations Director (until 31 July 2023) J Gardner, Director of Safeguarding, Standards and Culture P Povey, Director of Apprenticeships P Stanmore, Director of KS5 H Bailey, Raising Standards Leader W Bennett, Financial Controller (1 February 2024)
Independent auditors	Dains Audit Limited Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Etruria Stoke on Trent ST1 5RQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Solicitors	Eversheds LLP 1 Wood Street London EC2V 7WS Knights Solicitors LLP The Brampton Newcastle-Under-Lyme Staffordshire ST5 0QW

The JCB Academy Trust
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Trustees' report
for the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees 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.

Structure, governance and management

The Academy Trust operates an Academy in Rokester, Staffordshire. It has a combined learner capacity at year 9 to 11 of 552 and has a roll of 581 at the October 2024 census date and also 202 Post 16 learner and 404 apprentices.

a. Constitution

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

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of The JCB Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as The JCB Academy.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

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

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

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

**Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. A skills matrix is completed for each Trustee and updated annually. All new Trustees receive an induction pack and induction training. Where necessary, induction will provide training on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, budgets, plans and other documents that they will require to undertake their role as Trustee.

f. Organisational structure

The Academy provides Trustee oversight by the establishment of a number of Trustee Link meetings that act as sub committees of the main Board of Trustees. These Link Committees normally meet three times per year and provide recommendations and insight to the main Trust meeting that will normally meet four times per year.

The Link Committees operating in the year ended 31 August 2024 were as follows:

- Apprentice Programme Outcomes
- Finance
- Audit and Risk
- Property and Health & Safety
- Leadership and Management including PR
- Pre-16 and Post 16 Core Curriculum
- Pre-16 and Post 16 Business and Engineering Curriculum
- Legal and HR
- Quality Assurance
- Safeguarding and Learner Welfare.

The meetings are attended by representatives of the Trustee Board and Academy staff with relevant expertise in the areas under discussion.

Day to day operational decisions are delegated to the Academy Principal with reference to Trustees. The Principal is supported in their duties by a Senior Leadership team.

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

The Board of Trustees Pay Committee which comprises the Principal and two Trustees make determinations of pay in accordance with the Pay policy. Key personnel undertake a mid-term and full year Performance management review with the Principal and her/his recommendations on pay and conditions are then provided to the Pay Committee.

The determination of the Principal's pay and conditions will be decided following a formal Performance Management review with a committee of Trustees. This review body will then make recommendations to the main Trust board who will meet in private to make a final pay decision.

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**Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

J C Bamford Excavators Limited is the principal sponsor to the Academy.

i. Trade union facility time

The JCB Academy Trust has no employees who were relevant union officials during the year.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable Company is the operation of The JCB Academy Trust to advance, for public benefit, education for learners of different abilities from the ages of 13 upwards with an emphasis on engineering, manufacturing and international business.

The main objectives of the Academy are summarised below:

Changing lives by developing the engineers and business leaders of the future

This education is provided at no cost to parents of children from the following four local authorities: Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, Derbyshire and Derby City. The JCB Academy will consider all applications for places and will not select learners on the basis of ability for admission at Y9.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The JCB Academy's main strategy is encompassed in its mission statement which is "Changing lives by developing the engineers and business leaders of the future". To this end, the activities provided include:

- Developing the following attitudes amongst the young people who join the academy:
 - can do, will do attitudes;
 - passion for quality;
 - desire to achieve through actions;
 - pursuit of technical and academic excellence;
 - creative and enterprising behaviour;
 - team and leadership capacity.
- Implementing a unique curriculum which enables the objectives, vision and above attitudes to be achieved by all young people.
- Providing a learning environment which enables the objectives, vision and above attitudes to be achieved by all young people.
- Appointing and developing staff who have the abilities and approach which will enable them to develop the engineers and business leaders of the future.

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

- Developing partnerships with industry, higher education and other local providers to ensure that the vision can be achieved and that the curriculum is embedded within real world experiences.
- Providing a wide range of enrichment activities which will allow learners to explore engineering manufacturing and business in a wide range of contexts.
- Providing careers education and guidance which enables all young people who attend the academy to obtain employment or move on to higher education.

The JCB Academy welcomed its first learners in September 2010 in Y10 and Y12 and introduced an apprenticeship programme in September 2013. In September 2018 the academy welcomed its first cohort of learners into Y9.

c. Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing The JCB Academy's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The object of The JCB Academy is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing an academy offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on engineering, manufacturing and international business.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

- Learners achieved excellent individual results in 2024 and were able to demonstrate employability skills and knowledge.
- 58.2% of year 11 learners progressed into a JCBA P16 or JCBA apprenticeship education programme.
- 99% of year 11 learners progressed into sustained employment, education or apprenticeships.
- At KS5 leavers gained the following:
 - 31.13% gained an apprenticeship
 - 35.35% went to university
 - 18.87% went to employment or the armed forces
 - 14.65% were taking a gap year or data not yet collected
 - 64.2% of leavers went onto engineering and business destinations

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Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

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

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education via the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the form of recurrent and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. During 2013/14 the Academy established an apprenticeship programme that is funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The grants received during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total income in relation to Restricted General Funds was £10,200,000 (2023 £8,378,000). Total expenditure in relation to Restricted General Funds was £9,398,000 (2023 £8,265,000).

The local government pension scheme liability, valued in accordance with FRS102 is explained in note 25 to the accounts. As at 31 August 2024 the valuation of the Academy element of the Staffordshire Pension Fund shows an asset of £1,298,000 although this has not been recognised in the financial statements (2023 asset not recognised of £851,000).

The restricted funds excluding fixed assets and pension liability at 31 August 2024 was £331,000 (2023 £387,000 deficit). Unrestricted funds at 31 August 2024 was £200,000 (2023 £44,000 deficit).

At 31 August 2024, the net book value of fixed assets was £21,614,000 (2023 £22,171,000) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively in providing education and the associated support services to the learners of the Academy.

Financial effect of significant events on the financial performance and financial position of the Trust

The Academy has achieved an operating surplus for the year and has continued to meet its obligations to the ESFA with regard to loan repayments. The Academy is in a stronger position at year end to meet the increased challenges of inflation, soaring energy costs and budget cuts.

Key factors that will affect the Trusts financial performance going forward.

Creditors due within and after more than one year include loan from the ESFA totalling £397,500 at year end. The loan was fully paid off in September 2024.

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**Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Strategic report (continued)

Overall financial position of the Trust at the reporting date.

At the Balance Sheet date, the Trust was presenting a net current asset position of £531,000 (2023: £149,000).

Loans located in Creditors due after one year have reduced by £397,500 as it was agreed with the ESFA that the loans would be fully repaid in September 2024.

Defined benefit pension scheme liability for the Local Government Pension Scheme has remained at £nil.

a. Reserves policy

Any reserves held will be in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Department for Education.

Excluding the pensions reserve there was a surplus on Restricted Income funds of £331,000 which was increased from a deficit fund of £387,000 in 2022-23. Unrestricted funds had a surplus of £200,000 (2023: £44,000 deficit).

The Trustees have identified reserves representing 60 days trading as appropriate for normal operations. The current reserves, though improved on previous periods, are still considered to be unsatisfactory, and the Trustees were taking steps to manage resources to move to the required level of surplus.

There is a surplus on the defined benefit pension scheme reserve of £1,298,000 (2023: asset £851,000). The Academy has not received confirmation of a significant reduction in contributions or a potential refund, therefore no pension asset has been reflected within the financial statements in relation to the Trust.

b. Investment policy

The Trust has no investments at year end apart from bank balances held with the Trust's Bankers: Barclays, at normal commercial interest rates.

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**Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees maintain a risk register of the major risks to which the Academy is exposed. Risks identified are reviewed and systems are in place to mitigate identified risks. Trustees discuss the risk register at every Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

Principal Risks included:

That the ongoing energy crisis results in price increases that become unaffordable by the Academy, combined with material and food cost inflation, all of which has a detrimental effect on the provision of education for learners.

Funding does not increase in-line with inflation increases. There is pressure due to pay increases being higher than budget due to national wage settlements and the need to retain and employ key staff and a shortage staff. This could lead to deficits and pressure on future cashflows.

The Academy adopts T level qualifications and invests in staff and resources but funding and recruitment are insufficient to the extent that there is a detrimental affect on Academy finances.

Fundraising and donations

Lord Bamford also supports the Trust to improve facilities for learning. During the financial year 2023-24 Lord Bamford agreed a donation of £500,000.

The Trust also receives contributions from parents to help fund buses, trips and revision materials.

The Trust will also receive donations from companies who may assist with asset purchases, contribute to awards or may assist with curriculum-based projects.

The Trust has been the grateful beneficiary of a legacy in the current and previous years.

Plans for future periods

Quality of Education

The quality of education is enhanced for learners who enter the academy in Year 9 as they have a business and engineering enhanced curriculum which prepares the baseline knowledge for the curriculum in Year 10 and 11. Importantly, learners' needs are identified before they commence their Key Stage 4 studies and they receive robust advice regarding options and pathways. Information from former schools is never sufficiently complete to enable this to happen.

Demand

There are approximately 3 applications for every place in Year 9.

The learners entering Year 9 come from wide catchment area and the impact on any one area or an individual school would be minimal.

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**Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

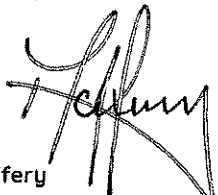
The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16 19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use a percentage of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 29.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 28 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M Jeffery
For and on behalf of J C Bamford Excavators Limited
Chair of Trustees

The JCB Academy Trust
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Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
JC Bamford Excavators Limited (nominated representative is M Jeffery), Chair of Trustees and Finance Link Committee	4	4
D R Bell, Vice Chair	3	4
P Gwinnett	3	4
J Bailey, Principal and Accounting Officer	4	4
J R Hubinger, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee	4	4
L J Holmes	4	4
H Ashraf	3	4
W Gorman	4	4
E Pilsworth-Straw	2	4
G E Turner	3	4
J P Wandless	3	4

The board maintains effective oversight in fewer than 6 meetings annually through the use of a subcommittee structure. The Trust Board through its range of sub Committees was able to monitor and review the operation of the Academy. The Sub Committee meetings were held 3 times during the year, and prepared reports to inform and update the main Trust Board, highlighting any issues or concerns.

The Trustees through their meetings structure were able to make meaningful contributions on a strategic level to the operation of the Academy, providing valuable challenge. Proper recording of the challenge, and issues raised was correctly noted in the Trust and Sub Committee minutes.

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Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

The Trustees receive detailed written and numeric reports, that were provided before committees met. The reports included Financial and Academic data on the performance of the Academy, with comparisons with different periods or other establishments. The quality of the information was considered to be good.

The Finance link committee is a sub committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to prepare and present their analysis of the financial performance and position of the Academy to the Board of Trustees throughout the year. The committee meets on a regular basis prior to full Board of Trustees meetings and will subsequently present their findings.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J C Bamford Excavators Limited (nominated representative is M Jeffery)	3	3
J Bailey	3	3
R Hubinger	3	3
G Turner	2	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is also a sub committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to consider the financial and other risks relevant to the academy, and to review the Internal Control structure for relevance and effectiveness. The Committee will also direct the work of internal auditors to identify risks and to test the effectiveness of internal controls. The Committee will recommend the appointment of the external auditors and obtain reports from them on the completion of the annual financial statement audit.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J C Bamford Excavators Limited (nominated representative is M Jeffery)	3	3
J Bailey	3	3
R Hubinger	3	3
G Turner	2	3

Conflicts of Interest

The Academy maintains a current date register of interests. All Trustees and senior staff are required to complete a Disclosure of Interests Proforma document which updates this register. The information held on the register will inform senior staff and Trustees of any instances where a Trustee or Senior member of staff should not be involved in a decision on behalf of the Academy.

All formal meetings of the Trust or Sub committees will begin by recording any conflict of interest declarations with regard to the agenda and business of the meeting.

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Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Governance Reviews

The last formal Governance review was undertaken in the Autumn of 2018. The Trust Board intends to undertake another review in the forthcoming year 2024-25.

Review of value for money

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

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

The JCB Academy was established to develop 'Engineers and Business Leaders for the Future'. It provides a unique educational experience for young people linked to a problem solving approach. Central to this is the involvement of local partner business organisations. A Department of Education Advisor described the integrated curriculum as 'outstanding' and 'unique'.

In February 2024 Ofsted endorsed our approach rating the Academy as good. Inspectors particularly praised progress in Mathematics and English.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The JCB Academy 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 Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 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 Trustees.

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Governance Statement (continued)

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an Internal audit service from PKF Smith Cooper LLP.

The academy has continued to purchase PKF Smith Cooper again. They have done this for a number of years and are considered value for money. This year it focused on financial processes, controls and procedures. (please see internal audit report to see improvements in financial reporting).

The work of internal audit included a review of the budgeting process and a review of information for completing budget reports.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares a short annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal auditors, have delivered their schedule of work as planned and remedial action was taken for any of the points identified.

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Governance Statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

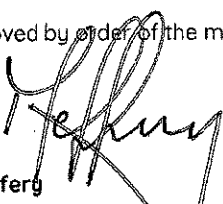
- the work of the reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.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

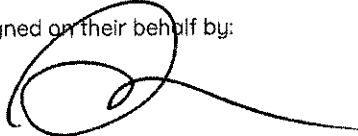
The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk committee and a plan to address any weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

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 members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


M Jeffery
For and on behalf of JCB Bamford Excavators Limited
Chair of Trustees
Date: 28 November 2024


J Bailey
Accounting Officer

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Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of The JCB Academy 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, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA:

During the year, the Trust failed to comply fully with the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) 2023 in relation to the appointment of an off payroll Chief Finance Officer. As soon as this was brought to the Trust's attention it was reviewed and rectified.



J Bailey
Accounting Officer
Date: 28 November 2024

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



M Jeffery
For and on behalf of JCB Bamford Excavators Limited
Chair of Trustees
Date: 28 November 2024

The JCB Academy Trust
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Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The JCB Academy Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially

The JCB Academy Trust
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Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The JCB Academy Trust
(continued)

misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The JCB Academy Trust
(continued)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

- The senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy trust through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy trust, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- Identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The JCB Academy Trust
(continued)**

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

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

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

Use of our report

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



Jonathan Dudley (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5RQ

28 November 2024

The JCB Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The JCB Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 October 2022 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 The JCB Academy Trust during the year 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 The JCB Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The JCB Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The JCB Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The JCB Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The JCB Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 6 November 2008 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 year 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.

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Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The JCB Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed, below nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

During the year, the Trust failed to comply fully with the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) 2023 in relation to the appointment of an off payroll Chief Finance Officer. As soon as this was brought to the Trust's attention it was reviewed and rectified.

Dains Audit Limited

Dains Audit Limited

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5RQ

Date: 28 November 2024

The JCB Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	571	8	579	229
Other trading activities	5	165	-	-	165	14
Investments	6	35	45	-	80	22
Charitable activities	4	286	9,584	-	9,870	8,652
Total income		486	10,200	8	10,694	8,917
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	6	-	-	6	3
Charitable activities	8	236	9,398	757	10,391	9,324
Total expenditure		242	9,398	757	10,397	9,327
Net (expenditure) /income		244	802	(749)	297	(410)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(10)	10	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		244	792	(739)	297	(410)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	373	-	373	742
Pension surplus not recognised	25	-	(447)	-	(447)	(706)
Net movement in funds		244	718	(739)	223	(374)

The JCB Academy Trust
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Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	(44)	(387)	22,353	21,922	22,296
Net movement in funds	244	718	(739)	223	(374)
Total funds carried forward	200	331	21,614	22,145	21,922

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

The notes on pages 29 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

The JCB Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 06346630

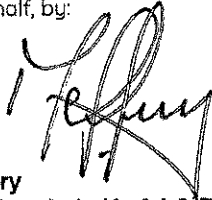
Balance sheet
As at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	21,614	22,171
		<u>21,614</u>	<u>22,171</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	14	11	19
Debtors	15	960	213
Cash at bank and in hand		830	1,083
		<u>1,801</u>	<u>1,315</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,270)	(1,166)
Net current assets		<u>531</u>	<u>149</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>22,145</u>	<u>22,320</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	(398)
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>22,145</u>	<u>21,922</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	25	-	-
Total net assets		<u><u>22,145</u></u>	<u><u>21,922</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	21,614	22,353
Restricted income funds	18	331	(387)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>21,945</u>	<u>21,966</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	200	(44)
Total funds		<u><u>22,145</u></u>	<u><u>21,922</u></u>

The JCB Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 06346630

Balance sheet (continued)
As at 31 August 2024

The financial statements on pages 24 to 58 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



M Jeffery
For and on behalf of J C Bamford Excavators Limited
Chair of Trustees
Date: 28 November 2024

The notes on pages 29 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

The JCB Academy Trust
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Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	60	545
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(193)	(339)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(120)	(60)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(253)	146
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,083	937
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	<u>830</u>	<u>1,083</u>

The notes on pages 29 to 58 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 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 i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is 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 year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

conditions) where 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 year it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10-15 years
Computer equipment	- 4-5 years

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

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

1.9 Debtors

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.11 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.

1.12 Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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 as detailed in notes 16 and 17. 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.

1.13 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.14 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

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

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

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

1.15 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use a percentage of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 29.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments 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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

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 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 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.

At 31 August 2024 the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is in a surplus position. FRS 102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Following a review of the asset celling report it was assessed that the surplus should be restricted to £nil.

Depreciation and residual values

The Trustees have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

The JCB Academy Trust
 (A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
 for the year ended 31 August 2024

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Donations	571	-	571	109
Capital Grants	-	8	8	120
	<u>571</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>579</u>	<u>229</u>
Total 2023	<u>9</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>229</u>	

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Educational Operations				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,040	4,040	3,852
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Apprentice Funding	-	1,635	1,635	1,588
Post 16 Funding	-	1,891	1,891	1,418
Pupil Premium	-	137	137	107
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	264	264	272
Teachers Pension grant	-	63	63	1
Rates relief	-	31	31	24
	-	8,061	8,061	7,262
Other Government grants				
Local Authority Income	-	202	202	144
	-	202	202	144
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	286	1,321	1,607	1,246
	286	9,584	9,870	8,652
Total 2023	283	8,369	8,652	

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(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Consultancy Income	1	1	1
Lettings Income	7	7	7
Uniform Sales	3	3	3
Other Income	14	14	3
RPA Claim	140	140	-
	<u>165</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>14</u>
Total 2023	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Investment Income	35	-	35	16
Pension Income	-	45	45	6
	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>22</u>
Total 2023	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>22</u>	

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for the year ended 31 August 2024

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £000	Premises 2024 £000	Other 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:					
Direct costs	-	-	6	6	3
Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	4,918	-	1,168	6,086	5,335
Allocated support costs	1,489	222	2,594	4,305	3,989
	<u>6,407</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>3,768</u>	<u>10,397</u>	<u>9,327</u>
Total 2023	<u>5,784</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>3,310</u>	<u>9,327</u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £000	Support costs 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Educational Operations	6,086	4,305	10,391	9,324
Total 2023	<u>5,335</u>	<u>3,989</u>	<u>9,324</u>	

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	4,918	4,289
Depreciation	198	142
Educational supplies	136	110
Examination fees	271	238
Staff development and other staff costs	37	12
Technology costs	5	6
Consultancy	207	121
Other Costs	282	391
Recruitment and other staff expenses	32	26
	<hr/> 6,086 <hr/>	<hr/> 5,335 <hr/>

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Notes to the financial statements
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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	1,489	1,495
Depreciation	559	557
Catering	244	222
Staff development and other staff costs	3	1
Technology costs	201	151
Consultancy	8	10
Other Costs	153	114
Maintenance of premises and special facilities	329	190
Cleaning and caretaking	62	129
Equipment rental costs	120	131
Rates	31	24
Security	10	1
Energy	160	108
Legal and professional	27	26
Transport	872	787
Other premises costs	37	43
	<u>4,305</u>	<u>3,989</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
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9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	129	68
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	757	700
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	11	9
- other services	3	2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Wages and salaries	4,725	4,289
Social security costs	500	429
Pension costs	1,039	989
	<u>6,264</u>	<u>5,707</u>
Agency staff costs	54	77
Staff restructuring costs	89	-
	<u>6,407</u>	<u>5,784</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Severance payments	89	-
	<u>89</u>	<u>-</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

10. Staff (continued)

b. Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 1 severance payments in the year (2023 - -), disclosed in the following bands:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£50,001 - £100,000	1	-

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs is a special severance payment totalling £30,000.

d. Staff numbers

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	60	60
Administration and support	54	50
Management	8	8
	<u>122</u>	<u>118</u>

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	2	-
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	-	1

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Notes to the financial statements
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10. Staff (continued)

f. 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 £823,000 (2023 - £809,000).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
J Bailey, Principal and Accounting Officer (from 3 November 2023)	90 - 95	N/A
Pension contributions paid	20 - 25	N/A
J McGulrk, Principal and Accounting Officer (until 3 November 2023)	80 - 85	120 - 125
Pension contributions paid	5 - 10	25 - 30

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

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 business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2023	27,989	2,206	1,907	32,102
Additions	53	113	49	215
Disposals	-	(14)	-	(14)
At 31 August 2024	<u>28,042</u>	<u>2,305</u>	<u>1,956</u>	<u>32,303</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	6,873	1,330	1,730	9,933
Charge for the year	558	135	63	756
At 31 August 2024	<u>7,431</u>	<u>1,465</u>	<u>1,793</u>	<u>10,689</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	<u>20,611</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>21,614</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>21,117</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>22,171</u>

Included within freehold property is freehold land at a valuation of £200,000 (2023 - £200,000) which is not depreciated.

14. Stocks

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Stocks	<u>11</u>	<u>19</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

15. Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	71	39
Other debtors	61	73
Prepayments and accrued income	828	101
	<u>960</u>	<u>213</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Other loans	398	120
Trade creditors	482	512
Other taxation and social security	118	107
Other creditors	128	110
Accruals and deferred income	144	317
	<u>1,270</u>	<u>1,166</u>

Other loans represent loans from the ESFA. These loans are interest free and the balance shown in these financial statements as falling due within one year reflects the repayment profile agreed with the ESFA. For more details of the repayment schedule see note 17.

In June 2024, the Trust notified the ESFA that they would settle the outstanding loan in full in September 2024, this was agreed by the ESFA and settled in full in September 2024.

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Notes to the financial statements
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Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 1 September	240	106
Resources deferred during the year	63	240
Amounts released from previous periods	(240)	(106)
	<u>63</u>	<u>240</u>

At 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for school trips to take place in 2024/25, bus sales relating to travel in 2024/25 and other 2024/25 income.

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Other loans	-	398
	<u>-</u>	<u>398</u>

Other loans represent loans from the ESFA. These loans are interest free and the balance shown in these financial statements as falling due after one year reflects the repayment profile agreed with the ESFA.

In June 2024, the Trust notified the ESFA that they would settle the outstanding loan in full in September 2024, this was agreed by the ESFA and settled in full in September 2024.

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	(44)	486	(242)	-	-	200
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(387)	4,040	(3,812)	159	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	137	(137)	-	-	-
Apprenticeship Income	-	1,635	(1,635)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	326	(326)	-	-	-
Post-16 Funding	-	1,891	(1,891)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	31	(31)	-	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	202	(202)	-	-	-
Other Income	-	1,893	(1,393)	(169)	-	331
Pension reserve	-	45	29	-	(74)	-
	(387)	10,200	(9,398)	(10)	(74)	331

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	21,154	8	(714)	10	-	20,458
ESFA Emergency Funding	29	-	(1)	-	-	28
Bamford Trust capital	260	-	(9)	-	-	251
Capital expenditure from GAG	5	-	-	-	-	5
Legacy Donation	113	-	(4)	-	-	109
LEP Grant	146	-	(5)	-	-	141
T-Level SEA	577	-	(20)	-	-	557
Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	51	-	(2)	-	-	49
DfE/ESFA donated fixed assets	18	-	(2)	-	-	16
	<u>22,353</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>(757)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,614</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>21,966</u>	<u>10,208</u>	<u>(10,155)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>21,945</u>
Total funds	<u><u>21,922</u></u>	<u><u>10,694</u></u>	<u><u>(10,397)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(74)</u></u>	<u><u>22,145</u></u>

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Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of an Academy. Each Academy is allowed to carry forward up to 12% of the current year's GAG. Of the carried forward amount, up to 2% of the carry forward GAG can be used for general purposes at the discretion of the Academy, but any balance over 2% must be used for capital purposes.

Other restricted general funds were funded by government grants or donations from sponsors. Any unexpended balances of these grants must be surrendered to the grant-maker or donor at the end of the contract.

Restricted fixed asset funds were funded by government grants or sponsor donations.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	-	319	(363)	-	-	(44)
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(509)	3,879	(3,730)	(27)	-	(387)
Pupil Premium	-	107	(107)	-	-	-
Apprenticeship Income	-	1,588	(1,588)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	271	(271)	-	-	-
Post-16 Funding	-	1,418	(1,418)	-	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	144	(144)	-	-	-
Other Income	-	971	(971)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	(36)	-	36	-
	(509)	8,378	(8,265)	(27)	36	(387)

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18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	21,687	55	(588)	-	-	21,154
ESFA Emergency Funding	32	-	(3)	-	-	29
Barnford Trust capital	177	100	(17)	-	-	260
Capital expenditure from GAG	6	-	(1)	-	-	5
Legacy Donation	125	-	(12)	-	-	113
LEP Grant	162	-	(16)	-	-	146
T-Level SEA	569	65	(57)	-	-	577
Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	27	-	(3)	27	-	51
DfE/ESFA donated fixed assets	20	-	(2)	-	-	18
	<u>22,805</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>(699)</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,353</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>22,296</u>	<u>8,598</u>	<u>(8,964)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>21,966</u>
Total funds	<u><u>22,296</u></u>	<u><u>8,917</u></u>	<u><u>(9,327)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>36</u></u>	<u><u>21,922</u></u>

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19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,614	21,614
Current assets	200	1,601	-	1,801
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,270)	-	(1,270)
Total	200	331	21,614	22,145

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,171	22,171
Current assets	(44)	1,177	182	1,315
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,166)	-	(1,166)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(398)	-	(398)
Total	(44)	(387)	22,353	21,922

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Notes to the financial statements
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20. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the period (as per statement of financial activities)	297	(410)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	757	700
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(8)	(220)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(29)	42
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(45)	(6)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	8	(4)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(747)	94
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(173)	349
Net cash provided by operating activities	60	545

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Repayments of borrowing	(120)	(60)
Net cash used in financing activities	(120)	(60)

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(215)	(559)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible assets	14	-
Capital grants from DfE Group and other capital income	8	220
Net cash used in investing activities	(193)	(339)

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Notes to the financial statements
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23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	830	1,083
Total cash and cash equivalents	830	1,083

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £000	Cash flows £000	Other non- cash changes £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,083	(253)	-	830
Debt due within 1 year	(120)	120	(398)	(398)
Debt due after 1 year	(398)	-	398	-
	565	(133)	-	432

25. Pension commitments

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

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

Contributions amounting to £128,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £110,000) and are included within creditors.

25. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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 TPS in the year amounted to £823,000 (2023 - £702,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy Trust 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.

25. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £310,000 (2023- £290,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £238,000 (2023 - £224,000) and employees' contributions totalled £72,000 (2023 - £66,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 27.2 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 2 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.15	3.45
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5	5.20
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.65	2.95
Commutation of pensions to lump sums -pre April 2008	65	65
Commutation of pensions to lump sums -post April 2008	65	65

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	19.9	20.0
Females	23.6	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.5	21.6
Females	25.4	25.5

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25. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis on obligations

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(113)	(106)
Discount rate -0.1%	113	106
Mortality assumption - 1 year Increase	184	166
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(184)	(166)
CPI rate +0.1%	112	100
CPI rate -0.1%	(112)	(100)
Rate of increase in salaries +0.1%	4	8
Rate of decrease in salaries -0.1%	(4)	(8)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2024 £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Equities	3,777	3,345
Corporate bonds	1,593	1,148
Property	413	399
Cash and other liquid assets	118	100
Total market value of assets	5,901	4,992

The actual return on scheme assets was £755,000 (2023 - £139,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Current service cost	(209)	(266)
Interest income	266	203
Interest cost	(221)	(197)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(164)	(260)

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25. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September	4,141	4,502
Current service cost	209	266
Interest cost	221	197
Employee contributions	72	66
Actuarial losses/(gains)	17	(848)
Benefits paid	(57)	(42)
	<u>4,603</u>	<u>4,141</u>
At 31 August	4,603	4,141

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September	4,992	4,647
Interest income	266	203
Actuarial gains/(losses)	390	(106)
Employer contributions	238	224
Employee contributions	72	66
Benefits paid	(57)	(42)
	<u>5,901</u>	<u>4,992</u>
At 31 August	5,901	4,992

At 31 August 2024, the Trust had a pension asset of £1,298,000 (2023 - £851,000) which has not been recognised in the financial statements.

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26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2024 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Not later than 1 year	92	92
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	113	131
	205	223

27. Members' liability

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

28. Related party transactions

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

Five Trustees/Members of the Academy Trust hold senior positions in J C Bamford Excavators Limited. The Academy Trust received income of £506,750 from the Company during the year in respect of apprenticeship training and donations (2023 - £21,346). The amount outstanding in debtors at the year-end was £506,750 (2023: £4,835).

29. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2024 the Trust received £38,701 (2023 - £29,395) and disbursed £60,572 (2023 - £17,930) from the fund. An amount of £4,941 (2023 - £26,812) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.