



(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended
31 August 2023**

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

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Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	P Laurence L Pugh S Root G Grodzki
Trustees	J Baynes (Chair) J Robinson (CEO) I Moore A Hornby (resigned on 10 July 2023) N Lancaster D McConnell E Nicholson D Parker (resigned on 21 February 2023) N Idle NPJ Lancaster
CEO	J Robinson
Finance Director	S Johnson
Senior Leadership Team	S King (Clerk to Trustees) J Robinson (CEO) S Johnson (CFO) R Street E Nayler H Vasey S Beveridge L Longford C Grogan S James
Registered Office	Bilton Grange School Bilton Lane Harrogate HG1 3BA
Company Registration Number	09668526 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	TC Group 6 Queen Street Leeds LS1 2TW
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 8-11 Cambridge Crescent Harrogate HG1 1PQ
Solicitors	Stone King LLP 1 Aire Street Leeds LS1 4PR

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT/ TRUSTEES' REPORT

Chairman's Statement

"Working and learning together to improve children's lives."

The Board of Trustees would like to thank our family of schools for their huge commitment to providing the very best education for all of our children and pleasingly this was verified by the strong OFSTED reports received by our two schools inspected during 2022/2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our children, staff and governors for their incredible hard work throughout the year.

The trust's priorities for the year have been to ensure a high-quality curriculum for all our children, further improve alignment and communication with all stakeholders (including to parents), maintaining school buildings through the conditions improvement fund and trust growth.

Successful bids to the conditions fund enabled fire safety works at Bilton Grange and roofing works at Askwith Primary School. I am also pleased to inform you that Bradleys' Both Primary School, near Skipton, became the sixth school in our trust when it joined YCAT in April 2023 and we look forward to further growth in 2023/2024.

Chief Executive Officer's Review of the Year

"Working and learning together to improve children's lives."

Our priorities for the academic year 2022/2023 included ensuring there is a high quality curriculum for all pupils in our schools that always meets the needs of all learners especially those with SEND.

The impact of Covid resulted in schools needing to spend more time addressing pupils' gaps in learning during 2021/22 and this hindered the development of a deep and connected curriculum in all subjects. This year, however, we have successfully established an embedded knowledge-rich curriculum in core subjects, foundation subjects and personal development. This is testament to our staff teams' determination to provide a broad and balance curriculum, which is enhanced by a range of closely aligned visits, visitors and extracurricular activities.

Our trust is very proud of the wealth of professional development opportunities it provides. This year we have provided a greater range of network groups, training for all subject leaders and also seen many of our middle leaders completing National Professional Qualifications in leadership.

This year we have strategically planned for the future growth of the trust and as a result we have focused on further developing expertise across the trust and extending the trust's central services to meet the increased number of schools. We have successfully used the Trust Capacity Fund (TCAF) to systematically build capacity, and this has already strengthened governance and will continue to develop our operational systems and estates management as we go into the next academic year.

I am pleased to report that pupils have made good progress from their starting points and am very proud of all the schools' achievements.

Thank you to all staff and governors for their hard work throughout the year.

Trustees' report

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1st September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and directors' report under company law.

The trust operates 6 academies for pupils aged 3 to 11 in the North Yorkshire area. The trust had 903 pupils on roll during the year. The trust schools are:

- Askwith Primary School
- Bilton Grange Primary School
- Bradleys' Both Primary School
- Hawes Primary School
- Leyburn Primary School
- Lothersdale Primary School

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust or YCAT.

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

Members' Liability

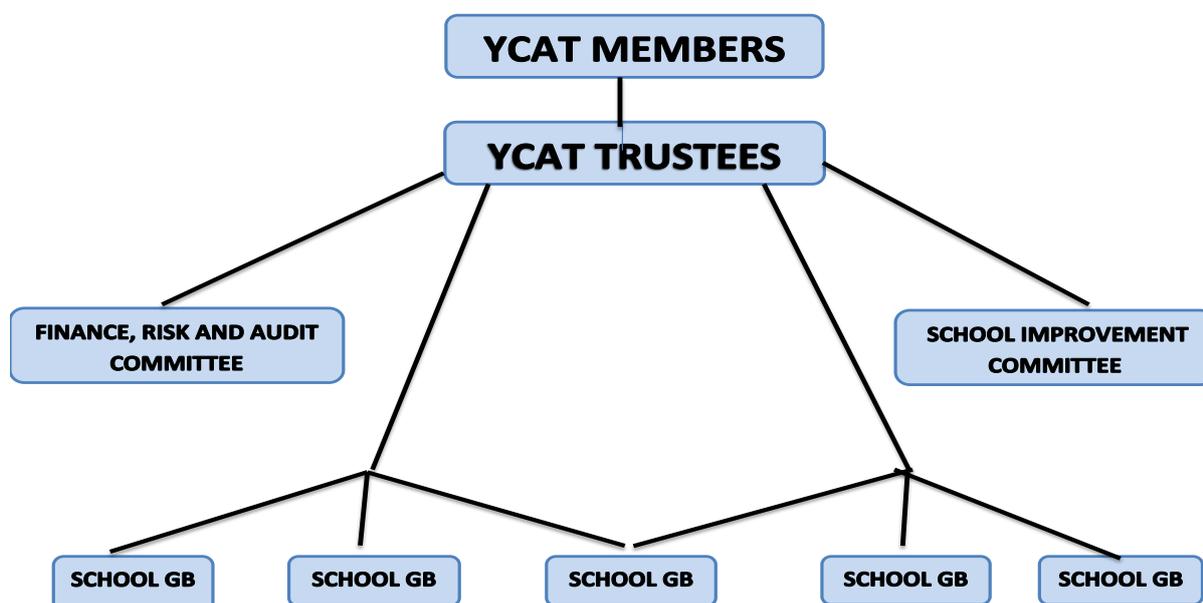
Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted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

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The trust, on identifying a need to recruit an additional or replacement trustee will identify requirements based on a skills audit of the current trustees. Candidates will be sought from within the schools and local communities and through external support agencies. The new trustee will be proposed by the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of Trustees following interview. The candidate will then be presented to the Board of Trustees who will vote on whether to accept them. All new trustees will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure (through the Disclosure Barring Service) before the selection is confirmed.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

A bespoke induction programme will be provided to all new trustees, informed by the National Governance Association. Trustees and Governors are encouraged to access training as and when required. Governance training is provided at both trust and school governance level, including a suite of online programmes developed specifically for our trust together with over 50 online modules developed by the National Governance Association.



Organisational Structure

4 Members; 9 Trustees

Governance, Leadership and Management of the Trust is carried out by the following:

- Board of Trustees
- Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk Committee
- School Improvement Leadership Group
- YCAT Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer
- School Local Governing Bodies
- Headteachers of each school

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

A comprehensive Accountabilities Framework has been agreed by the Trustees and identifies responsibilities and accountability across these groups. The Accountabilities Framework is available on the YCAT website at www.ycatschools.co.uk.

In summary, the Trustees have the following role:

- Custodians of the values and vision of YCAT.
- Strategically planning with leaders for the development of YCAT.
- Monitoring and evaluating the progress of YCAT's improvement and development plan.
- Consulting with leaders, staff and local governing bodies; and
- The trustees should provide challenge and support for leaders but are not there to lead or undertake the detailed work of YCAT.

Trustees should promote the development of "tight-loose balance" in all aspects of the MAT's work.

The CEO and CFO have cross MAT responsibility for delivering on the strategic plans. Local governing bodies and headteachers have a high level of delegated responsibilities and must ensure they meet the challenge of meeting their statutory duties and regulations and continuously improving children's outcomes.

Collaborative leadership is promoted in YCAT so that we ensure that there are regular opportunities for communication between governors, leaders and trustees. We have a termly meeting for all schools with an opportunity for discussion and training for school leaders, governors and trustees.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees agree pay and remuneration for key management personnel and the levels are benchmarked against similar schools. Any changes to pay and remuneration are agreed by the trustees through a formal performance management process.

Trade union facility time

During the year, YCAT bought into the North Yorkshire Education Services Professional Association Facilities Arrangements. £2,772 was paid which represents 0.10% of pay bill.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Askwith School is the lead school for the HART Alliance which includes about 40 members and the accounts for HART are included within YCAT. HART supports school improvement, continuing professional development, leadership development, succession planning and research and development. The CEO is a member of Owlcoates Academy Trust.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The key strategic priorities for the eighth year of operation were to:

Leadership and management

- Further develop leadership capacity at all levels across YCAT schools focusing on embedding and deepening the implementation of the curriculum.
- Reintroduce facilitated collaborative whole school reviews with senior leaders across our family of schools.
- Implement a sample of shared school improvement reviews with another multi academy trust to ensure reliability and validity.
- Implement an evidence-informed evaluative review of the impact different executive leadership models have on school leadership in rural schools. Identify ways to improve support for leadership in schools with an executive leadership approach.

Quality of Education

- Further develop and improve YCAT and HART CPD and school support to fully meet schools' improvement priorities and changing needs.
- Ensure provision for children with SEND across the Trust Schools is effective and meets their needs.

Growth Strategy

- Implement YCAT'S new growth plan. Meeting priorities identified by marketing group e.g. new marketing materials highlighting the advantages and benefit of joining YCAT.
- Review and restructure the central team operational systems to improve services for schools and ensure there is capacity for further trust growth.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Risk Management

- Review cyber security and ensure systems and policies are effective and up to date.

Buildings and Estates

- Continue to review the condition of buildings and opportunities for further CIF funding and strategies for maintaining the condition of buildings.

Safeguarding

- Review and ensure there is full compliance to all regulations, procedures and protocols, including in response to KCSIE September 2022.

Health and safety

- Review and ensure full compliance to all regulations, procedures and protocols supported by a strong health and safety culture across the trust.

Finance

- Review energy provision costs and identify ways to make sustainable savings across our schools.

We continue to provide very effective school improvement through our National Leaders of Education and Specialist Leaders of Education.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance on public benefit provided by the Charities Commission when establishing the trust's key objectives.

All the schools within the Academy Trust provide an inclusive curriculum for the pupils within their local community and offer the facility for local organisations to let their premises. All the schools work with their local secondary schools to ensure a smooth transition into secondary education for all pupils.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Overall, the Trust schools have achieved strong progress from pupils' starting point in its eighth year of operation.

The table below shows the KS2 results for this academic year.

ES = achieved expected standard

GD = achieved greater depth standard.

Subject	National		Askwith		Bilton		Bradley		Hawes		Leyburn		Lothersdale	
	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD	%ES	%GD
Reading	73	29	94	53	79	28	80	45	70	35	72	11	89	56
GPS	72	30	94	53	77	23	75	20	74	40	67	17	94	33
Maths	73	24	94	53	63	14	90	20	70	30	89	33	89	56
Writing	71	14	82	24	72	16	85	20	61	13	71	30	61	17
RWM	59	18	82	18	53	7	80	15	61	13	59	12	61	11

Pupil Attendance

YCAT schools work proactively with their school communities to promote regular pupil attendance. As a result, pupil attendance figures across all trust schools were very positive throughout the academic year and consistently above national figures. The average attendance figure for YCAT schools was 95.9% compared to a national average of 94.1%. The average percentage of children registering as persistently absent in YCAT schools was 5.9% which was significantly lower than the national average of 17.1%.

Fundraising

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

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Going Concern

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

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the form of recurrent grants. The grants received during the period ended 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown under restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Net movement in funds was a surplus of £2,859,000 (2022: £1,652,000), with net assets at 31 August 2023 of £12,835,000 (2022: £9,976,000).

The reserves position at 31 August 2023 is as follows: Restricted funds excluding pension reserve £12,606,000 (2022: £10,271,000), unrestricted funds (General fund) £669,000 (2022: £650,000).

Reserves Policy

The trustees will review the level of reserves annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income and commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

The trustees have determined that the level of free reserves should not fall below £100,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The level of free reserves at 31st August 2023 was £669,000 (2022: £650,000). The trustees recognise this level is in excess of the target level and will review budgets and future plans to ensure the level of reserves is appropriate.

Investments Policy

The YCAT Trustees have agreed on an Investments Policy which has the following key objectives:

- to achieve best financial return available whilst ensuring that security of deposits takes precedence over revenue maximisation.
- Only invest funds surplus to operational need based on all financial commitments being met without the YCAT or individual Academy banks account becoming overdrawn; and
- all investment decisions should be exercised with care and skill and consequently be in the best interests of the Academy, commanding broad public support.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to the quality of the curriculum, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy trust including its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks at school level, especially in the operational areas (e.g., in relation to the quality of the curriculum, health and safety and safeguarding) and in relation to the control of finances.

The main risks identified to the academy trust, continues to be around the uncertainty of funding levels linked to falls in birth rates in some parts of North Yorkshire. Rising staffing, energy and catering costs continue to add to the financial challenge. Additionally, pressure within North Yorkshire and nationally on high needs funding has meant that the costs of supporting pupils with additional needs is significantly higher than the funding received. This underfunding is set to continue, resulting in overall pressure on all school budgets.

Trustees will continue to monitor financial performance to ensure the academy trust remains in a strong financial position.

The Trust recognises the increased risks to organisations due to the challenges created by cyber security. As a result, this continues to be an area of focus for the Trust in the next academic year.

The trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Plans for Future Periods

Our plans for the next year include a focus on:

- Further developing the range and expertise of specialist teachers and leaders across our family of schools.
- Improving schools' internet connections to enable us to maximise the benefit of technology for teachers and children and ensure cyber security systems are robust.
- Ensuring the smooth transition of new schools into the Trust and ensure the Central service meets the school's needs effectively.
- Supporting all schools in raising attainment with well-being.
- Further supporting improvements to teaching spelling.
- Supporting schools to meet the needs of all SEND pupils including effectively tracking SEND pupils' progress.
- Completing additional condition surveys for all school buildings.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, 4 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



J Baynes
Chair of Trustees

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Yorkshire Collaborative 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.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer 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 Yorkshire Collaborative 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 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

2022-23 academic year	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Jenny Baynes	3	5
Alex Hornby	0	4
Nikola Idle	2	1
Neil Lancaster	4	5
Ian Moore	2	5
Emma Nicholson	1	5
Denise McConnell	5	5
Don Parker	3	3
Jo Robinson	5	5

This year we have continued our focus on improving governance including:

- Working more closely with the National Governance Association to provide bespoke learning journeys for our Governors as a result of skills audits.
- Developing further lines of communication between LGBs and Trustees.
- Continued focus on risk management at school level to ensure measured and timely strategic planning.

The Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk (FRAR) Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to carry out duties delegated by the main board in the areas of finance and commerce, including strategic management of risk. The Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk Committee met 5 times during the year. Attendance by committee members was as follows:

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

2022-23 academic year	FRAR meetings attended	Out of a possible
Jenny Baynes	5	5
Ian Moore	3	5
Emma Nicholson	1	5
Neil Lancaster	3	5
Sarah Johnson	5	5
Denise McConnell	4	5
Don Parker	3	3
Jo Robinson	5	5

Financial matters are discussed at both the main trust board meetings and the FRAR committee. In addition to the formal meetings, monthly management accounts are provided to the chair of the trustees and the FRAR committee, including income and expenditure, balance sheet and cashflow.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Continuing the analysis of benchmarking reviews of similar sized trusts to identify potential savings.
- Improved academy infrastructure, including IT through successful Trust Capacity Funding
- We have provided bespoke CPD to schools for curriculum development from the HART Alliance and this has reduced costs for schools.
- Continuing to reduce schools building costs by the CIF bid scheme.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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 Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust for the year to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

The academy 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:

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Veritau Ltd as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and commercial systems. The checks carried out in the current period included:

- *Purchasing Processes*
There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited. Our overall opinion of the controls within the system at the time of the audit was that they provided Reasonable Assurance.
- *Purchasing Processes*
Ongoing.

The internal auditor reports to the board of trustees annually through the Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The scope of the internal auditor's work is agreed by the Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk committee and is informed by a risk-based review of key financial areas and by any changes to processes.

Review of Effectiveness

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

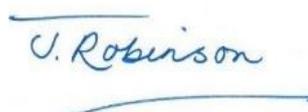
- the work of the internal auditor.
- the work of the external auditor.
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Resources, Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



J Baynes
Chair of Trustees



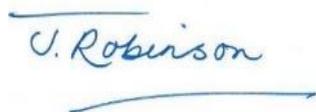
J Robinson
Accounting Officer

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2022.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal blue line that extends to the right.

J Robinson
Accounting Officer

Date: 4 December 2023

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- 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; and
- 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 on 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



J Baynes
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Statement of Accounting Policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were 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 auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST (continued)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 12, 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.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST (continued)

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

The objectives of our audit, in respect of fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.

Our procedures included the following:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience, and through discussion with the management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102, Charities SORP 2019, Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006) and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK;
- We considered the nature of the sector, the control environment and operational performance;
- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- We considered the procedures and controls that the company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified risk. These procedures included: testing manual journals; reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performing analytical procedures; and enquiring of management, and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from material fraud or error.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect all non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Steven Williams FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of TC Group, Statutory Auditor

6 Queen Street
Leeds
LS1 2TW

Date: 20 December 2023

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust's Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed, and income received during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Documenting the framework of authorities which govern the activities of the Academy Trust;
- Reviewing the evidence supporting the representations included in the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Undertaking a risk assessment based on our understanding of the general control environment and any weaknesses in internal control identified by our audit of the financial statements;
- Testing compliance with delegated authorities for a sample of material transactions;
- Testing transactions with connected parties to determine whether the Academy Trust has complied with the 'at cost' requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2022;
- Confirming through enquiry and sample testing that the Academy Trust has complied with its procurement policies and that these policies comply with the delegated authorities; and
- Reviewing any evidence of impropriety resulting from our work and determining whether it was significant enough to be referred to in our regularity report.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST AND THE
EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (continued)**

Conclusion

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

TC Group

**Reporting Accountant
TC Group**

Date: 20 December 2023

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
 Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account
 for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	1	27	-	408	435	105
Transfer from local authority on conversion		57	(25)	2,080	2,112	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	2	44	4,916	-	4,960	4,230
Teaching School	28	-	24	-	24	27
Other trading activities	3	151	-	-	151	138
Investment income	4	6	-	-	6	-
Total		285	4,915	2,488	7,688	4,500
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities						
Academy Trust's educational operations	6	23	5,116	227	5,366	4,788
Teaching School	28	15	22	-	37	34
Total		38	5,138	227	5,403	4,822
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		247	(223)	2,261	2,285	(322)
Gross transfers between funds	16	(228)	205	23	-	-
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	26	-	574	-	574	1,974
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		19	556	2,284	2,859	1,652
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		650	(886)	10,212	9,976	8,324
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		669	(330)	12,496	12,835	9,976

All of the Academy Trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2023

Registration number: 09668526

	Notes	2023 £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2022 £'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		12,138		10,149
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	292		230	
Cash at bank and in hand	23	1,384		1,050	
		<u>1,676</u>		<u>1,280</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(534)</u>		<u>(492)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,142		788
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>13,280</u>		<u>10,937</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(8)		(16)
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			<u>13,272</u>		<u>10,921</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		<u>(437)</u>		<u>(945)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>12,835</u>		<u>9,976</u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST:					
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Fixed asset fund	16		12,496		10,212
General Fund	16		107		59
Pension reserve	16		<u>(437)</u>		<u>(945)</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS			<u>12,166</u>		<u>9,326</u>
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	16		669		650
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>12,835</u>		<u>9,976</u>

The financial statements on pages 18 to 41 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2023, and are signed on their behalf by:



J Baynes
Chair of Trustees

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	11	860
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	21	1	(4)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	22	247	(744)
CASH TRANSFERRED ON CONVERSION		75	-
		<hr/> 334	<hr/> 112
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2022	23	<hr/> 1,050	938
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 AUGUST 2023	23	<hr/> <hr/> 1,384	<hr/> <hr/> 1,050

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES 2023

Statement of accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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 company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Probability of receipt means that it is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the transaction or gift will flow to the charity.

Grant receivable

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the value of 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Other grants from government agencies and other bodies are recognised in the period in which they are receivable to the extent the conditions of funding have been met. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received the income is accrued.

Sponsorship Income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis, and is stated inclusive of related tax credits.

Donated services and gifts in kind

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the Academy Trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the Academy Trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's policies.

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Expenditure

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

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 General funds are resources subject to specific restrictions imposed by funders or donors, and include grants from the ESFA and DfE.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by ESFA, DfE and other funders, where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

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

Computer software	33% per annum
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Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised at cost 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 lives. 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 to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold buildings	Over the remaining useful life 10-50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% per annum
Computer equipment	33% per annum

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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.

Debtors

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security creditors are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

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.

Leased assets

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

Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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. As stated in note 26, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 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.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Local Government Pension Scheme liability

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will affect 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 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Capital grants	-	401	401	90
Capital donations	-	7	7	10
Other donations	27	-	27	5
	27	408	435	105

2 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
DfE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,801	3,801	3,442
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
UIFSM	-	113	113	107
Pupil Premium	-	170	170	146
ESFA COVID-19 grants	-	133	133	71
Other grants	-	401	401	116
	-	4,618	4,618	3,882
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
SEN from Local Authority	-	85	85	68
Local Authority grants	-	138	138	129
Other grants	-	17	17	14
	-	240	240	211
OTHER INCOME				
Catering income	30	-	30	67
Academy trips	-	58	58	59
Other income	14	-	14	11
	44	58	102	137
Total	44	4,916	4,960	4,230

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

3 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Income from lettings	20	-	20	16
Income from ancillary trading activities	131	-	131	122
	151	-	151	138

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Bank Interest	6	-	6	-
	6	-	6	-

5 EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure		2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000		
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	3,436	209	281	3,926	3,403
Allocated support costs	473	406	561	1,440	1,385
Teaching School	9	-	28	37	34
	3,918	615	870	5,403	4,822

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating leases	16	14
Depreciation	227	204
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	11	10
Internal audit	5	-

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Direct costs – educational operations	3,926	3,403
Support costs – educational operations	1,440	1,385
	5,366	4,788

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operation £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Staff costs	473	473	594
Depreciation	18	18	24
Premises costs	388	388	307
Governance costs	136	136	57
Other support costs	425	425	403
Total support costs	1,440	1,440	1,385

Expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations amounted to £5,366,000 (2022: £4,788,000) of which £38,000 (2022: £62,000) was attributable to unrestricted and £5,365,000 (2022: £4,726,000) was attributable to restricted funds.

7 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
a. Staff costs		
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	2,764	2,402
Social security costs	251	214
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	609	747
	3,624	3,363
Agency staff costs	127	90
Staff restructuring costs	2	2
	3,753	3,455
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	2	2
	2	2

b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £2,294 (2022: £2,004).

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £2,294 (2022: £2,004) in relation to one (2022: one) employee.

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

7 STAFF COSTS (continued)

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the period expressed as full-time equivalents was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Charitable activities		
Teachers	101	98
Administration and support	24	31
Management	11	10
	136	139

e. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	3
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Pension contributions for these staff amounted to £110,635 (2022: £111,610).

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees, the CEO, Finance Director and Development Director 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 £649,697 (2022: £657,353).

8 CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- School Improvement Support;
- Financial services (Audit and accountancy);
- Human Resources and Payroll services;
- ICT Support for trust-wide finance systems;
- Legal services and Compliance; and
- Insurance

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the basis of a 5.5% charge of each school's funding.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Bilton Grange Primary School	75	69
Askwith Primary School	44	45
Lothersdale Primary School	30	28
Hawes Primary School	23	23
Leyburn Primary School	44	47
Bradleys Both Community Primary School	14	-
Total	230	212

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – 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 values of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023	2022
		£000	£000
J Robinson, CEO	Remuneration	65-70	55-60
	Pension Contribution paid	15-20	10-15
D Parker, Trustee	Remuneration	5-10	5-10
	Pension Contribution paid	0-5	0-5

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses amounting to £1,343 was reimbursed or paid directly to any Trustee (2022: £nil).

10 TRUSTEES’ AND OFFICERS’ INSURANCE

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

11 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Software £’000	Total £’000
Cost		
At 1 September 2022	15	15
Additions	-	-
Transfers	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	15	15
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2022	15	15
Charged in year	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	15	15
Net book values		
At 31 August 2022	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £'000	Assets under construction £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures and equipment £'000	2023 Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	10,705	375	70	73	11,223
On conversion	2,062	-	-	-	2,062
Additions	74	43	22	15	154
Transfers	391	(391)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	13,232	27	92	88	13,439
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	952	-	59	63	1,074
Charged in year	209	-	7	11	227
At 31 August 2023	1,161	-	66	74	1,301
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	12,071	27	26	14	12,138
At 31 August 2022	9,753	375	11	10	10,149

Included within freehold land and buildings is land with a carrying value of £2,359,165 which is not depreciated.

13 DEBTORS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	6	4
Other debtors	70	52
Prepayments and accrued income	216	174
	292	230

14 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade creditors	260	332
Other creditors	-	-
Other Loans	5	2
Other Taxation and social security	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	269	158
	534	492

Deferred income

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Deferred income at 31 August 2022	73	80
Resources deferred in the year	95	73
Amounts released from previous years	(73)	(80)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	95	73

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

15	CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Other Loans	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>
		<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>

Included within creditors due within one year is £5,000 (2022: £2,000) and in creditors due more than one year £8,000 (2022: £16,000) in respect of Salix loans from the ESFA. The loans are interest free and are repayable over the next 5 years.

16 FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,801	(4,006)	205	-
UIFSM	-	113	(113)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	170	(170)	-	-
ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	133	(133)	-	-
Teaching School	59	24	(22)	-	61
Conversion grants	-	75	(29)	-	46
Trust Capacity Funding	-	147	(147)	-	-
Other Grants	-	419	(419)	-	-
Other restricted	-	58	(58)	-	-
	<u>59</u>	<u>4,940</u>	<u>(5,097)</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>107</u>
Pension reserve	(945)	(25)	(41)	574	(437)
	<u>(886)</u>	<u>4,915</u>	<u>(5,138)</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>(330)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transferred on conversion	7,829	2,080	(128)	-	9,781
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,350	401	(86)	23	2,688
Donations	9	7	(3)	-	13
Capital expenditure from other funds	8	-	(7)	-	1
Private sector capital sponsorship	16	-	(3)	-	13
	<u>10,212</u>	<u>2,488</u>	<u>(227)</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>12,496</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>9,326</u>	<u>7,406</u>	<u>(5,365)</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>12,169</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>650</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>(38)</u>	<u>(228)</u>	<u>669</u>
Total funds	<u>9,976</u>	<u>7,688</u>	<u>(5,403)</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>12,835</u>

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

16 FUNDS (continued)

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

- (i) Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.
- (ii) Local Authority funding was received in the current year. This is restricted for provision of SEN and early years.
- (iii) The pension reserve relates to the pension deficit for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
- (iv) Funding for the Teaching School and SCITT are funding for the teaching school and teacher training with relevant expenditure allocated against this income.
- (v) Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	43	3,442	(3,552)	67	-
UIFSM	-	107	(107)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	146	(146)	-	-
Catch-up-premium	-	71	(71)	-	-
Teaching School	78	-	(19)	-	59
Other Grants	-	327	(327)	-	-
Other restricted	-	59	(59)	-	-
	<u>121</u>	<u>4,152</u>	<u>(4,281)</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>
Pension reserve	(2,659)	-	(260)	1,974	(945)
	<u>(2,538)</u>	<u>4,152</u>	<u>(4,541)</u>	<u>2,041</u>	<u>(886)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	7,957	-	(128)	-	7,829
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,331	90	(65)	(6)	2,350
Donations	2	10	(3)	-	9
Capital expenditure from other funds	12	-	(4)	-	8
Private sector capital sponsorship	20	-	(4)	-	16
	<u>10,322</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>(204)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>10,212</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>7,784</u>	<u>4,252</u>	<u>(4,745)</u>	<u>2,035</u>	<u>9,326</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>540</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>(77)</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>650</u>
Total funds	<u>8,324</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>(4,822)</u>	<u>1,974</u>	<u>9,976</u>

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

16 FUNDS (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£'000	£'000
Bilton Grange Primary School	84	80
Askwith Primary School	166	206
Lothersdale Primary School	49	62
Hawes Primary School	147	123
Leyburn Primary School	35	41
Bradleys Both Community Primary School	71	-
Central Services	224	197
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>776</u>	<u>709</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	12,496	10,212
Pension reserve	<u>(437)</u>	<u>(945)</u>
Total	12,835	9,976

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year (or part thereof) was as follows:

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs	Other Support Staff Costs	Educational Supplies	Other Costs (excluding Dep'n)	2023 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bilton Grange (includes SCITT)	1,146	144	43	279	1,612
Askwith (includes teaching school)	468	29	37	137	671
Lothersdale Primary School	423	63	26	156	668
Hawes Primary School	290	43	29	110	472
Leyburn Primary School	695	66	33	195	989
Bradleys Both Community Primary School	199	21	6	81	307
Central Service	98	103	-	215	416
Academy Trust	3,319	469	174	1,173	5,135

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,138	12,138
Current assets	669	610	397	1,676
Creditors due within one year	-	(495)	(39)	(534)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(8)	-	(8)
Pension scheme liability	-	(437)	-	(437)
Total net assets	669	(330)	12,496	12,835

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

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

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,527	22,527
Current assets	81	2,567	376	3,024
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,950)	(272)	(2,222)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,014)	-	(1,014)
Total net assets	81	(397)	22,631	22,315

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>293</u>	<u>18</u>

19 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

OPERATING LEASES

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trusts' future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Other		
Expiring within one year	14	6
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	<u>50</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>64</u>	<u>36</u>

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

20	RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Net expenditure for the reporting period	2,285	(322)
	Depreciation (note 12)	227	204
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(401)	(90)
	Interest receivable (note 4)	(6)	-
	Pension cost less contributions payable (note 26)	2	217
	Pension finance income (note 26)	39	43
	Increase in debtors	(62)	731
	Increase in creditors	39	77
	Voluntary income – transfer from Local Authority on conversion	(2,112)	-
	Net cash provided by Operating Activities	11	860
21	CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Interest received	6	
	Repayment of borrowing	(5)	(4)
	Net cash outflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance	1	(4)
22	CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(154)	(834)
	Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	401	90
	Dividends, Interest and rent from Investments	-	-
	Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
	Net cash inflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	247	(744)
23	ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Cash in hand and at bank	1,384	1,050
		1,384	1,050
24	ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS		
		At 1	At 31
		September	August
		2022	2023
		£'000	£'000
	Cash at bank and in hand	1,050	1,384
	Net funds	1,050	1,384
25	MEMBERS' LIABILITY		
	Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.		

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2023.

There were no contributions outstanding or prepaid contributions to either scheme at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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' Pensions 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 four years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS impacting the contributions charged in these financial statements, was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

In October 2023, the Government Actuary published the most recent actuarial valuation for the TPS as at 31 March 2020. This valuation is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and details of the key elements of the valuation can be found at: <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £414,000 (2022: £371,000).

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

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

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (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 2023 was £285,000 (2022: £225,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £232,000 (2022: £184,000) and employees' contributions totalled £53,000 (2022: £41,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.8% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85%	3.95%
Rate of increase for pensions	2.60%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10%	4.10%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60%	2.70%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	80.00%	75.00%

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.0	21.8
Females	24.5	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	23.5
Females	25.5	25.7

Sensitivity analysis

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit pension obligation is detailed below. In each case, only the assumption listed is altered; all other assumptions remain unchanged. A positive value represents an increase in the defined benefit pension obligation:

	At 31 August 2023 £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(58)	(73)
Discount rate -0.1%	58	76
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(76)	(82)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	76	82
CPI rate +0.1%	52	64
CPI rate -0.1%	(52)	(61)

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	1,408	1,009
Government bonds	278	259
Property	173	174
Cash	3	6
Other	437	277
Corporate bonds	181	150
Multi-asset credit	139	101
Total market value of assets	2,619	1,976
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	(3,056)	(2,921)
Deficit in the scheme	(437)	(945)

The actual loss on scheme assets was £189,000 (2022: £316,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	234	401
Past service cost	-	-
Pension finance cost	39	43
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	444	444

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities is a gain/loss of £574,000 (2022: gain of £1,974,000).

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,921	4,796
Current service cost	234	401
Interest cost	129	81
Employee contributions	53	41
Actuarial loss	(475)	(2,328)
Benefits paid	(1)	(70)
Past service cost	-	-
Net movement from acquisitions	195	-
At 31 August 2023	3,056	2,921

Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:		
Brought forward	1,976	2,137
Interest income	90	38
Actuarial gain	99	(354)
Employer contributions	232	184
Employee contributions	53	41
Benefits paid	(1)	(70)
Net movement from acquisitions	170	-
At 31 August 2023	2,619	1,976

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2024 is £238,000.

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.

27 RELATED PARTIES

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a Trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the AFH, 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.

During the year, 1 (2022: 1) employee of the trust is a spouses/partners of trustees who acted during the year. The employment contracts pre-date the conversion of the schools to academies and therefore the spouses/partners were not involved in the decision making process regarding their appointment. The employee is paid within the normal pay scale and does not receive special treatment as a result of their relationship to a trustee.

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

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

28 Teaching school trading account

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Income		
Teaching school income	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>
Total income	24	27
Expenditure		
Direct Expenditure		
Direct staff costs	(9)	(7)
Other expenditure		
Other support costs	<u>(28)</u>	<u>(27)</u>
Total expenditure	(37)	(34)
Surplus from all sources	(13)	(7)
Teaching school brought forward balance	<u>162</u>	<u>169</u>
Teaching school carried forward balance	149	162

29 TRANSFERS INTO THE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Conversion to an Academy Trust

The following school converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 on the date as set out below:

<u>Predecessor school</u>	<u>Conversion date</u>
Bradleys Both Community Primary School	28 March 2023

All of the operations and assets and liabilities of the above listed schools were transferred to Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust from North Yorkshire County Council for £nil consideration on the date noted above.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that are in substance gifts. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as Donations – transfer into the multi-academy trust.

The following table set out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA:

Bradleys Both Community Primary School	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets				
- Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	2,062	2,062
- Other fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	-	-	<u>2,062</u>	2,062
Cash	57	-	18	75
Pension deficit	-	(25)	-	(25)
Other identifiable assets/(liabilities)	-	-	-	-
Donation – transfer into the multi-academy trust	57	(25)	2,080	2,112

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

30 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 1 September 2023, Darley and Summerbridge Primary School Federation transferred into the Trust. At the time of the approval of the accounts no valuations had been obtained for the net assets transferred in and accordingly, this information in respect of the financial impact of the transfers on the Trust cannot be provided. The net asset value will be incorporated in the financial statements for the period ended 31 August 2024.