

Company registration number 08916979 (England and Wales)

**DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

G Self
J Ward (To 12 February 2024)
C Lancett (To 31 August 2024)
T Wyatt (From 3 October 2024)

Trustees

T Wyatt (Chair) (Appointed 3 October 2024)
J Wooster (Vice Chair) (Appointed 3 October 2024)
C Lancett (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)
L Larkins (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)
F Akande (Appointed 1 September 2023)
A Chibber (Resigned 31 August 2024)
N Hines (Appointed 20 November 2023 and resigned 10 July 2024)
C Marriott (Appointed 1 September 2023)
J O'Donnell (Appointed 1 September 2023)
M Ojo (Appointed 20 November 2023)
G Self
J Trusty (Accounting Officer)
J Ward (Resigned 12 February 2024)

Senior management team

- Head Teacher and Accounting Officer	J Trusty
- Deputy Head Teacher	G Kenward
- Assistant Head Teacher	V Stewart
- Assistant Head Teacher	E Mills
- Assistant Head Teacher	C Drummond (To 30 April 2024)
- Business Manager	B South

Company registration number

08916979 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Days Lane
Sidcup
Kent
DA15 8JU
United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
39 Threadneedle Street
Po Box 1000
London
BX1 1LT
United Kingdom

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates a single academy for pupils aged 3 to 11, serving a catchment area in Bexley. It has a pupil capacity of 630 (669 including Nursery) and had a roll of 626 (662 including Nursery) in the school census on 16 May 2024.

Structure, governance and management

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 charitable company operates as Days Lane Primary School.

The trustees of Days Lane Primary School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The Trustees are indemnified in respect of their duties on behalf of Days Lane Primary School to the extent that they are covered within the specific provisions contained within the ESFA Risk Protection Arrangement. This insurance provides unlimited cover in respect on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Articles of Association require the following: 3 members, up to 6 appointed governors, up to 2 Staff Governors, 2 to 4 Parent Governors, the Head Teacher and any number of co-opted governors. Parent and Staff Governors are elected: appointed governors are appointed by the Governing Body, following nomination based on their experience and professional skills.

The Governors are directors of the Academy for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 act and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The term of office for any Governor shall be 4 years save that this time limit shall not apply to the Head Teacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The full Trust Board met 3 times during the year. Trustees are provided with all relevant documents that they will need to undertake their roles. All Board meetings were held in person at the school site. Training for governors was delivered virtually during the year by Bexley Council and school managed online platforms.

Organisational structure

Governors, in conjunction with the Head Teacher are responsible for the strategic direction of the company, and the senior leadership of the Academy are responsible for the operational management within the Academy. The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer.

The Governing Body have a number of governors' with delegated terms of reference: Curriculum Finance, Staffing and General Purpose and Pay. They report back to the full governing body with recommendations or decisions made under their delegated powers.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trustees have agreed a Pay Policy under the jurisdiction of the Pay Committee and using London Borough of Bexley guidance.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no third party organisations under the management and control of the Governors.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

School Improvement Plan :

Quality of Education

Continue to develop and embed a knowledge-rich curriculum, with a focus on the consistent and effective implementation of all subjects.

Assessment for learning is used effectively across the curriculum.

Behaviour and Attitudes

The new school values are embedded with all stakeholders, They ensure development of positive learning attitudes and support children's learning personal development and well-being

Personal Development

Broaden children's enrichment opportunities to support their personal development and enhance the delivery of the school curriculum.

Leadership and Management

Develop the role of Middle Leaders with all teaching staff evidencing their impact on teaching, learning and assessment in their subject area.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principle activity is the operation of Days Lane Primary School to provide education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11. Days Lane Primary School is a former local authority primary school and is a very popular and successful community school providing an inclusive, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged three to eleven. The school has a tradition of high academic standards and is a good school with outstanding features. At Days Lane children's' attainment is well above the national average in EYFS, KSI and KS2. The children enjoy an exciting range of enrichment and extra curriculum activities. Our recent Ofsted inspection, confirmed that Days Lane continues to be a good school.

We believe that education is a partnership. Staff, Trustees and parents/carers work closely together to support children's learning and community links are strong. We strive for excellence and set high standards for all. Good can never be good enough for our children and we aspire to be an outstanding school. Childrens learning, achievement and well-being are at the centre of all that we do. We encourage children's progress and celebrate their achievements. We are always looking for ways to further improve and build on what we have already achieved because we believe that children deserve the very best.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Key strengths:

- Summer term data indicate that all year groups made more than expected progress during the year.
- Disadvantaged pupils generally made similar progress to their peers in each year group.
- Standards are highest in reading across the school.
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities generally made expected progress or better
- End of Key Stage 2 data, included below, showed that children were scoring higher than their peers nationally

Reading	2017		2018		2019		2022		2023		2024	
	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS
School	81%	34%	81%	38%	82%	27%	89%	43%	85%	34%	82%	38%
Bexley	79%	27%	79%	32%	77%	30%	77%	30%	77%	31%	TBC	TBC
National	75%	25%	75%	28%	73%	27%	74%	28%	73%	29%	74%	28%

Writing	2017		2018		2019		2022		2023		2024	
	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS
School	80%	21%	84%	32%	87%	29%	83%	20%	80%	23%	80%	27%
Bexley	80%	19%	83%	25%	83%	25%	77%	18%	78%	19%	TBC	TBC
National	77%	18%	79%	20%	78%	20%	69%	13%	71%	13%	72%	13%

Maths	2017		2018		2019		2022		2023		2024	
	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS
School	80%	26%	81%	39%	82%	32%	80%	37%	78%	22%	76%	41%
Bexley	75%	27%	77%	30%	79%	32%	74%	27%	77%	28%	TBC	TBC
National	70%	23%	75%	24%	79%	27%	71%	22%	73%	24%	73%	24%

Areas for development:

- In each year group, at least 75% achieve the expected standard and 20% achieve greater depth in each subject.
- In each year group, at least 65% of pupils achieve the expected standard in reading, writing, and mathematics combined.
- In each year group, 11% achieve greater depth in reading, writing, and mathematics combined.

Key performance indicators

The main KPI is the Ofsted Framework for Inspection.

1. Inspectors must judge the quality of education provided in the school. This is the overarching judgement.
2. In order to make a judgement about the quality of education provided in the school, inspectors must first make four key judgements. These are:
 - overall effectiveness
 - personal development, behaviour and welfare
 - outcomes
 - effectiveness of early years
3. In addition the school must take into account the:
 - extent to which the education provided by the school meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school, and in particular the needs of:
 - pupils who have a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.
 - pupils who have special education needs.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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, the board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, some of which are restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total income was £3,885k (2023: £3,643k), total expenditure of £4,001k (2023:£3,762k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £116k (2023: Deficit of £119k).

This year has seen additional financial challenges for schools due to the increase in cost of living especially the much higher utility costs. In addition, support staff pay increased over and above any previous awards and at a higher percentage than expected.

This year has seen continued financial challenge for schools due to the increase cost of living most notably increased staffing costs and higher utility costs. Industrial action impacted school operations nationally. The leadership team were fortunate enough to offer children a combination of on site and remote learning for each day of industrial action.

The Academy's trading income remained consistent, the wraparound childcare is popular and often operating at capacity. A wide range of Extra-curricular clubs were offered from the start of the academic year additionally, activity clubs were available during school closure periods. The clubs provided positively impacted the income for lettings this academic year.

Historically the Academy has enjoyed robust reserves which are aligned with the strategic vision of the school estates; this year a proportion of reserves were allocated to redevelop the key stage 1 toilets.

Future forecasts rely on historical reliable demand for school places, successful school business enterprises and promises of increased grant funding from the Prime Minister's government to ensure a broadly favourable and balanced budget position.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £5,895k (2023: £6,029k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The London Borough of Bexley Pension Fund, in which the Academy participates, showed a balance of £nil (after allowing for asset ceiling) (2023: £nil) at 31 August 2024.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

The Trust Board reviews the reserve levels of the Academy annually. Trustees require a revenue reserve to be held to fund future expenditure related to the strategic long-term aims and development of the Academy. Additionally Trustees require a capital reserve to be held to fund future capital maintenance expenditure on a managed programme in accordance with the terms of any funding grants and/or to fund other capital expenditure agreed by the Trust Board (for example emergency repairs). Trustees have determined that instead of taking out staff absence insurance, a reserve of funds should be built up to be used to pay for cover in the case of extended sickness absence or maternity/paternity/parental/adoptions leave.

Days Lane Primary School shall ensure that contingency funds are maintained of between 10% - 15% of annual revenue plus the designated staff absence and designated maintenance reserve. approximately £375k to £560k (2023: £200k).

The academy's current level of unrestricted reserves is £541k (2023: £592k). The Trustees expect to utilise the additional reserves in the coming periods.

Investment policy

The academy does not hold any investments at the current time. The accounting policy will be determined when the need arises in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles and the Funding Agreement.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, safeguarding, finance, facilities, School trips, health and safety, and other operational areas of the School. Appropriate systems, policies, procedures and controls have been put in place so as to ensure that the various risks do not impact adversely on its students or the operation of the School. Where possible, appropriate insurances are in place for insurable risks.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees consider the principal risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed to be:

Safeguarding

The safety of the Academy's pupils and staff is the highest priority of Days Lane Primary School at all times. Health and Safety policies are in place, in addition to a strong culture of security and vigilance. There are five designated safeguarding leaders who can be contacted at any time necessary through various means, with a Pastoral Care Lead on site who will also assist with any safeguarding concerns.

Economic climate

The Academy has been impacted by the increased energy prices, in addition to the increased cost of living which has led to higher than expected increases in salary costs. The Academy has robust reserves that offer a level of protection against the rising costs however the long-term implications of the current economic climate remain a risk to longer term budget planning.

Reduced government funding

The future of Academy funding continues to be uncertain, which makes planning a balanced budget very difficult beyond the scope of one year. Generally speaking the Academy takes a prudent approach as much as possible and seeks to utilise its own business resources to generate additional income where possible.

Business Continuity Plan

Ensuring an effective business continuity plan is in place, with particular regard to the continuation of teaching in the event of loss of premises, protection and reinstatement of information management systems and loss of key employees.

The Academy strives to build continuity plans, operation manuals and redundancy into its systems where possible to ensure that in the event of loss of premises or staff, the Academy can still continue to operate effectively. Similarly staff share responsibilities and knowledge in school to help cover for sickness and absence.

Cyber Security

School leaders and the Trust Board ensure they are aware of cyber risks and are adequately prepared in the event of a cyber incident with an effective cyber response plan in place. Training for all Staff and Trustees helps to protect the Academy against online theft or damage as well as preventing unauthorised access to the vast amounts of personal data stored within online accounts.

Health & Safety

The Health and Safety of the Academies Pupils and Staff is the priority of Days Lane Primary School. The Academy aims to create safe learning environments, giving pupils an appreciation of risk and how to deal with it. Health and safety policies are in place supported the competently trained management team who ensure risks are managed responsibly and proportionately.

Estate Management and Upkeep

Trustees strive to ensure that the estate meets the Academies current and future educational needs via planned preventative maintenance, risk assessments and policy. Staff tasked with estate management are adequately trained and supported in their role by the senior leadership team.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Academy primarily relies upon grant funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, who delegate funding from central government to allow the Academy to meet its charitable purpose of providing education to young children aged 3 to 11 years old. This grant is based largely on our pupil numbers and is also impacted by the deprivation profile of our pupils. Additional grants may also be awarded to the Academy, such as Pupil Premium which must be used for the benefit of disadvantaged pupils or the PE and Sports Premium grant for primary schools, which must be spent for the benefit of our pupils and their progress with sports and physical education. The Academy also receives top-up funding from the local authority for special educational needs support with regards to relevant pupils, as well as Early Years Funding for the school nursery each term. These all appear within the accounts as DfE/ESFA restricted grants.

In addition to government funding, the Academy also receives other income from parents for items such as school trips, school dinners and the provision of childcare out of school hours, and funding is also received from third parties who make use of the premises when offering pupils activities. These additional streams of revenue help to shield the Academy from the financial risks of decreasing government funding and rising costs for staffing and upkeep and running of the premises.

Generally speaking the Academy's main financial assets are bank balances, representing liquid cash. A sizable deposit is held on a 32 day notice account as part of the school's investment strategy, but this remains accessible in times of need. Furthermore the Academy maintains a healthy level of available reserves in its current bank account to ensure that any short-term threats to cash flow will not jeopardise the effective running of the Academy.

The Academy holds funds in two broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending. Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between those which are available for spending at the discretion of the governors (Unrestricted Funds) and those which are subject to condition or restriction (Restricted Funds). Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as the land, buildings and equipment. In common with all academies and local authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit must also be reflected in the financial statements, and as this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds.

Plans for future periods

The school has identified the following 4 priorities for 2024/25 in our School Improvement Plan.

Priority 1: To improve the progress and attainment of writing to bring it in line with reading and maths. Continue the implementation of 'Talk for Writing' across the school as a tool to improve writing.

Quality of Education

1: Improve children's progress and attainment in writing and maths, so that statutory, reportable outcomes are well above national benchmarks

2: Attainment targets 2024-25

GLD – 72%

Phonics 90% passing the phonics screening and 62.5% passing the phonics screening re-take

Multiplication Check – 85% of the children scoring at least 20 out of 25

KS2 Outcomes – Reading 82%, Writing 80%, Maths 83%

3: Curriculum – To develop the computing curriculum and to ensure that teaching staff have the knowledge and skills to deliver high quality lessons. To review and update the Humanities curriculum in line with the OFSTED subject reviews and recommendations.

Behaviour and Attitudes

To implement a new approach to behaviour, considering all stakeholder view, which will be shared in a new behaviour policy. To develop a strategy to support children and their parents' understanding of online behaviour.

Personal Development

Developing a strong pupil voice across all subject areas and the school community

Leadership and Management

Ensure that all subject leaders are aware of key lines of enquiry to effectively monitor and evaluate their subject area. Develop the role of middle leaders so that all staff evidence their impact on teaching, learning and assessment in their subject area.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 05 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

T Wyatt
Chair

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, 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 Days Lane Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is 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 3 times during the year. All meetings were held on site. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
T Wyatt (Chair) (Appointed 3 October 2024)	0	0
J Wooster (Vice Chair) (Appointed 3 October 2024)	0	0
C Lancett (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)	3	3
L Larkins (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)	1	3
F Akande (Appointed 1 September 2023)	2	3
A Chibber (Resigned 31 August 2024)	1	3
N Hines (Appointed 20 November 2023 and resigned 10 July 2024)	1	3
C Marriott (Appointed 1 September 2023)	3	3
J O'Donnell (Appointed 1 September 2023)	3	3
M Ojo (Appointed 20 November 2023)	0	3
G Self	2	3
J Trusty (Accounting Officer)	3	3
J Ward (Resigned 12 February 2024)	3	3

During the year there has been three appointments and four resignations, as detailed on page 1.

The Full Trust Board review the budget, management accounts and annual statutory accounts of the Academy and its responsibilities extend further to the oversight of the audit management letters, financial systems and controls, adherence to financial regulations and insurance. There is also a Finance, Audit & Risk committee who examine financial information in greater detail, reporting back to the Full Trust Board as required.

Data is often processed on behalf of the Trustees by key personnel in the Academy, including the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and School Business Manager. Along with source data, these personnel will offer Trustees succinct summaries, reviews and suggestions to assist with the strategic assessment, performance and direction of the Academy.

Trustees are due to meet formally at least three times a year, where all Trustees attend per the committee model of governance. The Finance, Audit & Risk committee also met 3 times a year.

The board of Trustees review the Board's strategy for the school annually. The format of the Board of Trustees was altered from the circle model of governance to the more traditional committee model from September 2023. This model was successfully implemented this academic year and will continue to be followed in the 2024-2025 academic year.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conflicts of interest

Trustees are required to disclose any conflicts of interest that may exist. An annual declaration is provided to the school by the Trustees. This is reviewed at the start of every meeting held.

Governance reviews

Trustees identified skills gaps within its Board, these have been filled during this academic year following a successful Parent Trustee election and positive external recruitment to the Board.

Following a number of appointment and resignations, a further skills audit will be undertaken at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year to accurately review the skills offered to the Board.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to ensure that these systems are robust, appropriate and effectively implemented and that such considerations can be demonstrated or evidenced.

Issues dealt with in 2023-24

During 2023-24, this committee reviewed the following areas: the school's risk register, the requirement for internal scrutiny and the appointment of an internal auditor, the school's management accounts and the planned expenditure to redevelop the Key stage 1 toilets. The committee considered the internal scrutiny 2023 – 2024 as set out on page 12.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Lancett (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)	1	3
L Larkins (Co-Chair) (Resigned 31 August 2024)	2	3
F Akande (Appointed 1 September 2023)	2	3
C Marriott (Appointed 1 September 2023)	3	3
G Self	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Head Teacher 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, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- The school reviews service level agreements for value for money and service regularly. The introduction of a new MIS in May 2022 has led to cost savings as processes have been streamlined and additional services are no longer required.
- Leaders reviewed external training requirements and purchased an inclusive subscription reducing the overall costs.
- Reduction in supply staff booking, utilising the assistant headteachers to support where required.
- Regular price monitoring is undertaken with suppliers throughout the year. Savings are made with bulk purchasing where possible.
- Ensuring that planned preventative maintenance is undertaken ensuring the school estate remains operationally efficient.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Days Lane Primary School for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. 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:

- 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, 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;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees considered the need for specific internal audit functions for 2023-24 and employed Juniper Education to undertake the following reviews:

- Financial Control – Payroll, Banking and Income
- Non Financial Control – HR Compliance

The internal auditors' work was shaped by the risk profile of the Academy, the maturity of financial and other systems and any concerns of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC), as well as the findings of the scoping meeting. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's internal control systems.

In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Reviewing the school's financial policies and procedures
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the controls and processes for banking and BACs transactions
- Review to determine the appropriateness and effectiveness of the controls and processes in place for payroll processing.
- Reviewing the controls and processes in place for income and testing to determine the effectiveness of the controls.
- Reviewing the school's HR policies and procedures
- Reviewing pre-appointment checks and record keeping for staff.

The outcome of the internal scrutiny was that risks are being mitigated to an acceptable level, except for the weaknesses identified, and improvements are required to provide an adequate and effective control environment. Weaknesses in controls or processes identified are not considered to be significant but the recommended actions will result in improved processes and controls.

The internal auditors report to the Finance, Audit & Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the responsibilities by school staff. This committee in turn report to the Full Governing Body with their own conclusions.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the Head Teacher 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/reviewer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- 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 trustees and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 05 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

T Wyatt
Chair

J Trusty
Accounting Officer

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024*

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

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

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

J Trusty
Accounting Officer

05 December 2024

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 05 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

T Wyatt
Chair

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

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

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

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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

Use of our report

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

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

19 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
United Kingdom
DA14 5RH

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 15 July 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Days Lane Primary School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Days Lane Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Days Lane Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 19 December 2024 and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Dated: 19 December 2024

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds: General £000	Fixed asset £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	67	11	11	89	109
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	3	3,624	-	3,627	3,387
Other trading activities	5	159	-	-	159	140
Investments	6	10	-	-	10	7
Total		<u>239</u>	<u>3,635</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3,885</u>	<u>3,643</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	122	3,744	135	4,001	3,762
Total	7	<u>122</u>	<u>3,744</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>4,001</u>	<u>3,762</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		117	(109)	(124)	(116)	(119)
Transfers between funds	17	(168)	178	(10)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	-	-	-	325
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(69)	-	(69)	(10)
Net movement in funds		<u>(51)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(134)</u>	<u>(185)</u>	<u>196</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>592</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,029</u>	<u>6,621</u>	<u>6,425</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,895</u>	<u>6,436</u>	<u>6,621</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	68	6	35	109
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	48	3,339	-	3,387
Other trading activities	5	140	-	-	140
Investments	6	7	-	-	7
Total		<u>263</u>	<u>3,345</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>3,643</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	49	3,570	143	3,762
Total	7	<u>49</u>	<u>3,570</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>3,762</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		214	(225)	(108)	(119)
Transfers between funds	17	(289)	207	82	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	325	-	325
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(10)	-	(10)
Net movement in funds		<u>(75)</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>196</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>667</u>	<u>(297)</u>	<u>6,055</u>	<u>6,425</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>592</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,029</u>	<u>6,621</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		5,895		6,029
Current assets					
Debtors	13	133		76	
Cash at bank and in hand		810		847	
		<u>943</u>		<u>923</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(394)		(317)	
Net current assets			549		606
Total assets less current liabilities			6,444		6,635
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(8)		(14)
Net assets excluding pension asset			6,436		6,621
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	19		-		-
Total net assets			<u>6,436</u>		<u>6,621</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			5,895		6,029
Total restricted funds			<u>5,895</u>		<u>6,029</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		541		592
Total funds			<u>6,436</u>		<u>6,621</u>

The accounts on pages 21 to 42 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 05 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

T Wyatt
Chair

Company registration number 08916979 (England and Wales)

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £000	£000	2023 £000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	20		(51)		-
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		10		7	
Capital grants from DfE Group		11		35	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1)		(117)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			20		(75)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(6)		(5)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(6)		(5)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(37)		(80)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			847		927
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			810		847
Relating to:					
Bank and cash balances			443		489
Short term deposits			367		358

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Changes in accounting policies

Previously leasehold land had not been depreciated, however as the Academy has the right to use over the course of the lease the Trustees have made the decision to depreciate the land over the 125 years of the lease.

1.3 Going concern

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

1.4 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more or groups of these assets amounting to £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

The property has been included at the valuation provided by the ESFA when completing their desktop valuation.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets 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:

Buildings	2%
Land	Over Length of Lease (125 years)
Leasehold improvements	10%
Computer equipment	33%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20%

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

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 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.

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The pension value also includes an asset ceiling adjustment and the assumptions used to calculate this are:

- The scheme is open to new entrants;
- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to the LGPS;
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period;
- The present value in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

Critical areas of judgement

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 10 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1.5 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Capital grants	-	11	11	35
Other donations	67	11	78	74
	<u>67</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>109</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,750	2,750	2,666
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	105	105	89
- Pupil premium	-	89	89	88
- PE and sports premium	-	21	21	21
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	77
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	92	92	38
- Teachers pay grant	-	48	48	1
- Teachers pension grant	-	24	24	3
- Others	-	25	25	35
	-	3,154	3,154	3,018
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	468	468	321
Other incoming resources	3	2	5	48
Total funding	3	3,624	3,627	3,387

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Hire of facilities	9	-	9	3
Extended school activities	128	-	128	112
Other income	22	-	22	25
	159	-	159	140

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Short term deposits	10	-	10	7

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
		Premises £000	Other £000		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,895	113	232	2,240	2,141
- Allocated support costs	1,088	312	361	1,761	1,621
	<u>2,983</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>4,001</u>	<u>3,762</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	9	10
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	135	143
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	15	11
- Other services	2	2
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(8)	9
	<u>163</u>	<u>175</u>

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	68	2,172	2,240	2,141
Support costs				
Educational operations	54	1,707	1,761	1,621
	<u>122</u>	<u>3,879</u>	<u>4,001</u>	<u>3,762</u>

Analysis of support costs

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Support staff costs	1,096	1,142
Depreciation	22	29
Technology costs	60	53
Premises costs	290	170
Other support costs	268	207
Governance costs	25	20
	<u>1,761</u>	<u>1,621</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	2,245	2,122
Social security costs	213	202
Pension costs	451	511
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Staff costs - employees	2,909	2,835
Agency staff costs	74	74
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2,983	2,909
Staff development and other staff costs	22	23
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total staff expenditure	<u><u>3,005</u></u>	<u><u>2,932</u></u>

Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	29	29
Administration and support	50	52
Management	5	6
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	84	87
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £524k - 6 members of staff (2023: £614k - 7 members of staff).

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

J Trusty (Head Teacher)

- Remuneration £95,001 - £100,000 (2023: £90,001 - £95,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £25,001 - £30,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

Trustees' expenses

During the year there were no re-imbusement of Trustee expenses (2023: £nil).

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

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was within the ESFA Risk Protection Arrangement. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	6,879	110	203	25	7,217
Additions	-	-	1	-	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	6,879	110	204	25	7,218
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	985	5	182	16	1,188
Charge for the year	108	5	20	2	135
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	1,093	10	202	18	1,323
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	5,786	100	2	7	5,895
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2023	5,894	105	21	9	6,029
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13 Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade debtors	4	1
VAT recoverable	47	7
Other debtors	11	-
Prepayments and accrued income	71	68
	<u>133</u>	<u>76</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Salix loans	5	5
Trade creditors	135	50
Other taxation and social security	47	43
Other creditors	60	52
Accruals and deferred income	147	167
	<u>394</u>	<u>317</u>

The Salix loan is provided interest free and is repayable in equal half year instalments. The last repayment is due in September 2026.

15 Deferred income

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	112	132
	<u>112</u>	<u>132</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	132	60
Released from previous years	(132)	(60)
Resources deferred in the year	112	132
	<u>112</u>	<u>132</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	112	132
	<u>112</u>	<u>132</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds received in advance for free school meals, and Mayor of London meal grant.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Salix loans	8	14
	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

				(Continued)	
16	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024		2023	
	Analysis of loans				
	Wholly repayable within five years	13		19	
	Less: included in current liabilities	(5)		(5)	
		<u>8</u>		<u>14</u>	
	Amounts included above	<u><u>8</u></u>		<u><u>14</u></u>	
	Loan maturity				
	Debt due in one year or less	5		5	
	Due in more than one year but not more than two years	5		5	
	Due in more than two years but not more than five years	3		9	
		<u>13</u>		<u>19</u>	
		<u><u>13</u></u>		<u><u>19</u></u>	
17	Funds				
		Balance at		Gains,	Balance at
		1 September		losses and	31 August
		2023	Income	transfers	2024
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	Restricted general funds				
	General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,750	(2,928)	178
	UIFSM	-	105	(105)	-
	Pupil premium	-	89	(89)	-
	Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	210	(210)	-
	Other government grants	-	468	(468)	-
	Other restricted funds	-	13	(13)	-
	Pension reserve	-	-	69	(69)
		<u>-</u>	<u>3,635</u>	<u>(3,744)</u>	<u>109</u>
		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,635</u></u>	<u><u>(3,744)</u></u>	<u><u>109</u></u>
	Restricted fixed asset funds				
	DfE group capital grants	-	11	-	(11)
	General fixed assets	6,029	-	(135)	1
		<u>6,029</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>(135)</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u><u>6,029</u></u>	<u><u>11</u></u>	<u><u>(135)</u></u>	<u><u>(10)</u></u>
	Total restricted funds	<u><u>6,029</u></u>	<u><u>3,646</u></u>	<u><u>(3,879)</u></u>	<u><u>99</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds				
	General funds	592	239	(122)	(168)
		<u>592</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>(168)</u>
	Total funds	<u><u>6,621</u></u>	<u><u>3,885</u></u>	<u><u>(4,001)</u></u>	<u><u>(69)</u></u>
		<u><u>6,621</u></u>	<u><u>3,885</u></u>	<u><u>(4,001)</u></u>	<u><u>(69)</u></u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

- General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.
- Income received from the ESFA as follows: UIFSM and Pupil Premium .
- Other DfE/ESFA grants: This includes the supplementary grant, rates grant, PE & Sports premium, Teachers Pension Grant, Teachers Pay Grant, Recovery Premium, National Tutoring, Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, ECT and Mentor time off timetable, mentor backfill and mental health grants.
- Other government grants: other grants: This includes SEN funding, London School Meals, matrix funding and sports funding received from the Local Authority.
- DfE / ESFA capital grants: This includes the Devolved Formula Capital grant.

The transfer of funds relates to the purchase of fixed assets during the period and the use of devolved formula capital for repairs and maintenance.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	19	2,666	(2,896)	211	-
UIFSM	-	89	(89)	-	-
Pupil premium	8	88	(96)	-	-
Catch-up premium	8	-	(8)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	175	(175)	-	-
Other government grants	-	321	(321)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	6	(2)	(4)	-
Pension reserve	(332)	-	17	315	-
	<u>(297)</u>	<u>3,345</u>	<u>(3,570)</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	-	35	-	(35)	-
General fixed assets	6,055	-	(143)	117	6,029
	<u>6,055</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>(143)</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>6,029</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>5,758</u>	<u>3,380</u>	<u>(3,713)</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>6,029</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	667	263	(49)	(289)	592
	<u>667</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>(49)</u>	<u>(289)</u>	<u>592</u>
Total funds	<u>6,425</u>	<u>3,643</u>	<u>(3,762)</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>6,621</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted funds: General £000	Fixed asset £000	Total Funds £000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,895	5,895
Current assets	543	400	-	943
Current liabilities	(2)	(392)	-	(394)
Non-current liabilities	-	(8)	-	(8)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total net assets	541	-	5,895	6,436
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted funds: General £000	Fixed asset £000	Total Funds £000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	6,029	6,029
Current assets	592	331	-	923
Current liabilities	-	(317)	-	(317)
Non-current liabilities	-	(14)	-	(14)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total net assets	592	-	6,029	6,621
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

19 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 London Borough of Bexley. 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £47k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £45k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £271k (2023: £261k).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.3% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £164k.

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.

Total contributions made	2024 £000	2023 £000
Employer's contributions	190	214
Employees' contributions	51	49
Total contributions	241	263

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	5.4
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.8

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	21.4
- Females	23.7	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.3	22.3
- Females	25.4	25.4

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	-39	-33
Discount rate - 0.1%	40	34
Mortality assumption + 1 year	47	39
Mortality assumption - 1 year	-46	-38
CPI rate + 0.1%	40	34
CPI rate - 0.1%	-40	-33

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset	2024 £000	2023 £000
Scheme assets	2,346	1,969
Scheme obligations	(2,267)	(1,959)
Net asset	79	10
Restriction on scheme assets	(79)	(10)
Total liability recognised	-	-

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £000	2023 Fair value £000
Equities	970	652
Government bonds	666	195
Other bonds	-	256
Cash	28	274
Property	178	37
Other assets	504	555
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	2,346	1,969
Restriction on scheme assets	(79)	(10)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	2,267	1,959
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £176,000 (2023: £(47,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £000	2023 £000
Current service cost	129	188
Interest income	(112)	(80)
Interest cost	104	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amount recognised	121	197
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September 2023	1,959	2,045
Current service cost	129	188
Interest cost	104	89
Employee contributions	51	49
Actuarial loss/(gain)	64	(452)
Benefits paid	(40)	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	2,267	1,959
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

	2024 £000	2023 £000
At 1 September 2023	1,969	1,713
Interest income	112	80
Actuarial (gain)/loss	64	(127)
Employer contributions	190	214
Employee contributions	51	49
Benefits paid	(40)	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	2,346	1,969
Restriction on scheme assets	(79)	(10)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	<u>2,267</u>	<u>1,959</u>

Included within the pension assets above is an "asset ceiling adjustment". The asset ceiling is the present value of the economic benefits that the employer can recover from the plan, such as reduced contributions or cash refunds. It is deemed for the Trust that the future costs expected for the employers contributions will outweigh the future service costs and therefore there is no economic benefit to the Trust and therefore the asset value is reduced to zero.

20 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(116)	(119)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(11)	(35)
Investment income receivable	6	(10)	(7)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	(61)	(26)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	19	(8)	9
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		135	143
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(57)	5
Increase in creditors		77	30
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(51)</u>	<u>-</u>

DAYS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £000	Cash flows £000	31 August 2024 £000
Cash	489	(46)	443
Cash equivalents	358	9	367
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	847	(37)	810
Loans falling due within one year	(5)	-	(5)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(14)	6	(8)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	828	(31)	797
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Amounts due within one year	26	-
Amounts due in two and five years	99	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

23 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

Income related party transactions

L Larkins, Governor, is the Treasurer of the Days Lane Parents Association. During the year the Parents Association donated £11k (2023: £6k) to the Academy.

24 Members' liability

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