

THE VILLAGES' MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024



Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 10765135
(England & Wales)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	M Bunn D Cooksey K Dallow
Trustees	M Rea, Chairman K Bailey (resigned 31 st August 2024) P Jackson, Executive Officer (retired 31 st August 2024) S Williams, Executive Officer (appointed 1 st September 2024) S Salisbury K Kavanagh V Lee (resigned 31 st August 2024) S Tenga-Duley S Turner S Robson (appointed 26 th February 2024) R Sall (appointed 21 st May 2024)
Company registered number	10765135
Company name	The Villages Multi-Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	Ankerage Green Worcester WR4 0DZ
Company secretary	A Thomas
Chief executive officer	P Jackson (retired 31 st August 2024) S Williams (appointed 1 st September 2024)
Senior management team	P Jackson, Chief Executive Officer R Thorp, Principal (Lyppard Grange Primary) R Higgins, Principal (Nunnery Wood Primary) D Groves, Deputy Principal (Lyppard Grange Primary) R Bidwell, Deputy Principal (Nunnery Wood Primary) A Thomas, Company Secretary
Independent auditors	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 4 The Cross The Avenue Worcester WR1 3PY

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

This is the Trustees' seventh annual report; the company was incorporated in May 2017. The Lyppard Grange Primary School converted and opened as an academy on 1 September 2017 with Nunnery Wood Primary School joining the Trust as an academy on 1 July 2018.

Both academy schools are within the city of Worcester, serving diverse communities. At the January 2024 census, a total of 833 (419+414) pupils aged 4 years to 11 years were on roll.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Villages' Multi-Academy Trust (the Trust) is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity (the Company). The Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law. The Company operates as The Villages' Multi-Academy Trust.

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

The Trust provides indemnity insurance to cover the liability of Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The members are entitled to appoint 11 Trustees. Trustees are selected according to the expertise and skills required by the Trust. The Board completes an annual skills audit of its trustees and uses this as a basis to identify any shortfalls in expertise in the Board's composition. Existing trustees draw on their wide network of professional contacts to source new trustees with the appropriate skills and expertise. For example, two recent appointees to the Board have been recruited because of their experience; the first has extensive experience in risk management and compliance, and the second is experience in education governance particularly in the academy sector. All trustees are appointed rather than elected. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is also a Trustee.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Training and induction for Trustees will depend on their prior experience and/or knowledge. Most induction is carried out 'in-house' but external trainers may be brought in, and Trustees may attend external training provision where this is appropriate. All trustees take responsibility for keeping themselves up to date with developments in the sector. The CEO provides briefings and updates on developments in education and associated matters.

Organisational structure

The full board of the Trust (the Board) meets at least six times per year. During the year there has been a further restructuring of the Board's committees and the Trust has reverted to its previous structure of four main committees of the Board: Business; Audit and Risk; Human Resources; and School Improvement.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Organisational structure (cont'd)**

Previous changes were temporary and driven by necessity. The Trust has a desire to operate in a lean and efficient manner. The reestablishment of its previously successful structure enables detailed discussions, understanding and scrutiny. Each committee reports on its meetings to the full board. The scope and remit of each committee is set out in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and associated terms of reference.

Although some interim decisions are made within these committees, with full ratification being required by the Board, each committee has a range of delegated decision-making powers. Governance of each academy is delegated to Local Governing Bodies (LGBs). It is for each LGB to determine the most effective governance structure for their academy. The day-to-day operation of each academy is delegated to the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team of each academy which report back to their LGB as appropriate. The Head teachers and Senior Leadership Teams work with the support and collaboration of the CEO. The day-to-day operation of the Trust is delegated to the CEO, who reports directly to the Board. The CEO is the accounting officer.

This is the second full year of the Trust's new executive structure in operation, providing for a dedicated Chief Executive Officer rather than the dual role of headteacher/CEO which was in place previously. In line with the objectives set when this new structure was introduced, focus has been on ensuring both Lyppard Grange and Nunnery Wood continue to provide good education for the children in each school. As well as ensuring the Trust meets its statutory obligations, the CEO's other key objective is to further grow the Trust with additional schools. This in turn, will increase our capacity to support each school. As of 31st August 2024, no new schools have yet joined the MAT.

One further relevant change this year has been the retirement of the CEO. The current CEO announced his intention to retire in the Autumn term 2023; this gave the Trust Board ample time to recruit a new CEO and plan for transition before the existing CEO retired as of 31st August 2024. A dedicated committee was formed to plan for and deliver on the recruitment of a new CEO. An external educational consultant was also contracted to be part of this extra committee. The role was advertised nationally, and three prospective candidates were interviewed.

The new CEO, Ms Sian Williams, was appointed on 5th February 2024. The outgoing CEO and the incoming CEO worked collaboratively during the summer term to ensure a smooth transition. The new CEO took up her post on 1st September 2024.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Board has set a separate Pay Policy for Teaching Staff and another for Support Staff. These are based on national models and apply to both schools within the Trust. These policies include information relating to the setting of pay and remuneration for senior leadership as well as the CEO. No other Trustees are remunerated for their work. The Pay Policies are closely linked to the Trust's Performance Management (Teachers) Policy and Non- Teaching Staff Appraisal Policy.

Pay progression for teachers, including senior leaders, is directly linked to performance and pupil outcomes. Performance reviews for the CEO and headteachers is completed by a dedicated committee of Trustees, with input from LGBs and an appropriately experienced external advisor. The final decisions on senior staff remuneration are taken by the full Board. Performance management and pay progression of deputy head teachers and all other staff is delegated to the LGBs, who act on the recommendations of the respective headteacher in each school.

Trade Union Facility Time

As the Trust contracts into trade union facilitation through Worcestershire County Council's arrangement with local trade union officials, no employees of the Trust acted as trade union officials during the period.

Total cost of trade union facilitation	£1,690
Total pay bill	£4,040,273
Percentage of pay bill spent on trade union facilitation	0.04%

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trust had two related party relationships; spouses of two of the Trusts' directors are employed by the Trust. They were employed prior to conversion as an Academy and are remunerated in accordance with the normal pay scales for their roles. The related directors play no role in their performance reviews or salary considerations.

These relationships are acknowledged in the Trustees' declarations of interest forms annually and these are published on the Trust's website.

Objectives and aims

The principal activity of the Company is the operation of two academies, The Lyppard Grange Primary School and Nunnery Wood Primary School, to provide education for pupils aged four years to eleven years.

The Trust continues to have a single, central over-riding aspiration: to provide children with the very best possible start by 'empowering children to be secure, engaged and equipped for life.'

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

In empowering children to be secure, the Trust seeks to ensure they are:

- Self-aware; knowing their own strengths and weaknesses
- Self-disciplined and hard working
- Content in themselves with high self-esteem and a good sense of self-worth
- Confident in their own abilities
- Able to recognise right and wrong, with a sound moral compass
- Fit, healthy and active

In empowering children to be engaged, the Trust seeks to ensure they:

- A sense of responsibility
- Awareness of their community – locally, nationally & globally
- A willingness to participate in those communities
- Awareness of and empathy with others
- The willingness and ability to keep learning
- Strong communication and social skills

In empowering children to be equipped for life, the Trust seeks to ensure they are:

- Numerate & Literate
- Ready for the changing technological world
- Positive in their outlook
- Prepared to broaden their horizons
- Committed, tenacious and resilient
- Adaptable, independent and good team players
- Polite, respectful and courteous

Implicit in the vision of the Trust are core principles which govern the way in which each school operates and underpins decision making against which each school's performance and outcomes are measured:

- The needs of children are the highest priority – securing excellent outcomes for children is the *raison d'être* of our schools
- Each school is best placed to make the right decisions for the children in that school
- Effective collaboration between schools can have a significantly positive impact on raising standards
- Honest, open and transparent relationships between all stakeholders in schools – Members, Trustees, Governors, senior leaders, staff, children and parents – underpin effective collaboration. Positive, active partnerships are fundamental to sustained success.

This has been another exciting and engaging year for children in our schools.

Undoubtedly, however, the legacy of the pandemic continues to be apparent as schools address the impact of the various measures imposed during that period. Notably, attendance at both schools is considerably lower than pre-pandemic levels although pupil absence in schools nationally is markedly higher than the levels seen before the pandemic.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Objectives, Strategies and Activities (cont'd)*****Good Schools***

Both schools continue to be 'Good' schools. Both schools have continued to develop teaching and learning approaches to writing this year, using 'Talk 4 Writing' to accelerate pupil progress and impact positively on pupils' outcomes. English leaders across both schools have collaborated well on this and organised joint CPD for teachers and teaching assistants.

The new CEO plans to build on this collaborative working next academic year and this will further impact on pupil outcomes in comparison to national figures.

The Trustees continue to be hugely grateful to the whole staff teams at both Lyppard Grange Primary School and Nunnery Wood Primary School for their ongoing hard work and achievement that gives pupils the best possible experience both academically and pastorally.

Curriculum Provision

Throughout the year, both schools continued to provide meaningful, interesting, and relevant curriculum experiences and opportunities for the children in our schools. Provision focused heavily on ensuring that any gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding arising from the pandemic were addressed. And whilst progress has been good, this continues to be work in progress.

Opportunities to provide enhance the curriculum and provide enrichment activities were wide ranging – after school clubs, educational visits, residential visits and visitors to school - and clearly enhanced provision in all year groups across both schools. Milestone events such as Harvest Festivals, Carol Concerts and Young Voices are firmly reestablished in the schools' calendars.

Support for Disadvantaged Children

Supporting disadvantaged children has continued to be a priority. Specific funding streams have been carefully managed to ensure maximum impact. Pupil Premium continues to fund a range of provision and opportunity. Leaders used this funding stream to provide additional support for children individually and in small group activity. The funding has continued to enable us to provide additional teaching assistant support, and the provision of a pastoral support worker as well as a family liaison officer. Additionally, Pupil Premium funding was used to support disadvantaged children to participate in educational visits with single-day visits fully funded and residential 50% funded by each school.

Additional funding provided through the National Tutoring Programme enabled schools to provide targeted academic support.

Governance

At Board level, work has continued to focus on consolidating the effective leadership and governance of the Company and its schools, further refining the Trust's business functions, and supporting the work of both academies. Changes resulting from the restructured leadership team at both schools, supported by the revised CEO's role has continued to be beneficial.

Trustees, together with the local governors and senior leaders of the academies, have continued to develop a framework for enhancing the quality of teaching and learning within both schools, promoting the sharing of best practice and sharpening the focus on pupil outcomes still further.

The Trust continues to invest in its staff, seeking to recruit the best teachers and support staff, providing high-quality professional development, and establishing effective succession planning to secure excellent outcomes for pupils going forward.

Promoting the health and welfare of children

Both academies have maintained their strong commitment to promoting the safety and welfare of all pupils within the Trust. The Trust has well-established and effective child protection policies and procedures. It works proactively with other agencies to support children and their families. The most recent Ofsted inspections (March and October 2022) and identified that safeguarding of pupils was robust, rigorous and effective in both schools.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Trust Growth**

Whilst the Trust's ambitions for growth remain, plans have not yet come to fruition. It is apparent that many schools are continuing to focus on managing post-pandemic recovery, financial challenges and industrial action, and the space for considering academisation is squeezed. The political impetus promoting academisation has also waned considerably and there appears to be less of an imperative for schools to convert. The Trust's determination remains undiminished and contacts with prospective partners are being maintained.

The Trust's ability to grow will also require central business and administrative capacity to support that growth. Accordingly, the CEO continues to focus on improving the quality of both personnel and systems such that they scale as we grow, ensuring we can deliver services which promote and support excellent education for all pupils. The current CEO will retire at the end of this academic year (31st August 2024) and will be replaced by Sian Williams (incoming 1st September 2024). Her focus will very much be on Trust growth to secure The Villages' Trust's future.

Public benefit

In setting Trust objectives, The Board has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit carefully. The primary purpose of the Trust is the advancement of effective education of pupils attending the two academies.

Both academies have the aspiration of providing the very best education to all pupils regardless of family background and circumstances, aiming to ensure all fulfil their potential and are fully ready for the next stage of their education.

Achievements and Performance**Key performance indicators**

The Trust uses the attainment, progress, attendance, and behaviour of pupils in each academy as KPIs for the delivery of its primary objective. These are compared with the national averages where this data is available.

Aspect	Lyppard Grange		Nunnery Wood		National	
Whole school attendance	95.2		91.6		92.5	
% achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	80		90		67	
% meeting phonics threshold at the end of Year 1	93		62		79	
% meeting phonics threshold at the end of Year 2	92		79		89	
% reaching the standard at the end of KS1:	Expected +	Greater Depth	Expected +	Greater Depth	Expected +	Greater Depth
Reading	78	20	64	16	68	18
Writing	72	12	59	5	60	8
Maths	78	12	61	16	70	16
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	68	5	50	5	56	6
% reaching the standard at the end of KS2 :	Expected +	Greater Depth	Expected +	Greater Depth	Expected +	Greater Depth
Reading	76	27	68	23	74	28
Writing	71	13	77	23	72	13
Maths	73	35	67	13	73	24
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	59	10	58	8	61	8
English, Grammar & Punctuation	75	43	70	27	72	32

Going concern

The Board has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue its operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies notes to the financial statements.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Promoting the success of the company**

The Trust remains true to its founding principles of promoting the best interests of children; as stated in earlier, the needs of children are the highest priority – securing excellent outcomes for children is the *raison d'être* of our schools.

The attainment outcomes detailed above indicate that across a range of KPI's the Trust's schools compare with national averages. Both schools ensure that pupils leave EYFS with a Good Level of Development. PSC scores are positive at Lyppard Grange but an academically weaker cohort with high percentages of pupils with SEND at Nunnery Wood, has resulted in weaker phonics attainment; this will be a focus for next academic year. Whilst the percentage of pupils attaining RWM combined at the end of KS2 is more or less in line with national, this will also be a focus for next academic year; more pupils need to attain expected standards in all three areas, especially writing at both schools and mathematics at Nunnery Wood.

More importantly than these statistical outcomes, the majority of children leaving our schools for the next stage of their education, do so equipped with the positive learning characteristics that will enable them to be successful at high school and beyond. Anecdotal feedback from receiving schools is overwhelmingly positive.

The trust board continues to ensure that its core vision underpins decision making at all levels. Multiple elements, including ensuring statutory compliance, maintaining effective control of the trust's finances, supporting the leadership, including local governors, of each school, developing the skills and knowledge of our staff team together with keeping a critical eye on the attainment and progress of children, drive the work of trustees' strategic thinking. Continuing to secure positive outcomes in each of these elements ensures the long-term viability and sustainability of the Trust.

Financial review

The accounting period runs from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities. All expenditure supports the activities of both academies within the Trust and is monitored carefully by both the local governing bodies and the Board, specifically through its Business Committee.

Trust schools have continued to make best use of Covid catchup funding to help those pupils worst affected by the epidemic. National Tutoring funds were still used to good effect at Lyppard Grange but the higher proportion of school contribution this year meant it was impractical to use it at Nunnery Wood. Highly focused targeting of this support has enabled the Trust to pupils catch-up. It is unfortunate that this support can't be continued into the medium-term as the need is still there.

Inadequate core funding has once again been problematic, building on the same issue from the previous year. Core funding (the age-weighted pupil unit – AWPU, and lump sum) rose by 5.5% but this is offset by the withdrawal of the 2.4% provided by the Supplemental Grant (SSG) which had helped meet some of the severe inflationary pressures of the cost-of-living crisis. The funding floor only rose by 3.28%. Taking SSG into effect that reduces normal core funding to a 3.1% increase, and the funding floor to only 0.88%, or 71% less increased funding than schools not on the funding floor.

Teachers' pay increased by 6.5% in every grade this year with Mainscale1 rising 7.1% to £30,000. The Teacher Pay Grant (TPaG) covers about 43% (2.8% of salary + oncosts) of this in our schools. This leaves 3.7% of salary and on costs to be paid by other funding. For Lyppard Grange on the funding floor, this is a shortfall of £31.5K. The increase in teacher pensions by 5% from April 2024 saw funding fall short by £2K per school. Support staff had the flat rate increase of £1,925 for the whole year, a further flat rate of £1,290 from April 24 and an extra day's holiday – equivalent to around an 11% increase. These shortfalls in staff funding are having a profound effect.

The other area where funding lags far behind need is High Level Needs (HLN). Education & Health Care Plans (EHCPs) assume £10K in school funding for each child, which may be true for special schools but is far from the situation of mainstream schools. A Primary pupil that has Low Prior Attainment and the highest level of deprivation still only attracts £5,924. The funding floor is lower still at £4,405. For every pupil that has an

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Financial review (cont'd)**

EHCP, a primary school has to "find" £4k to £5.5K from the other pupils. Both schools are seeing increased levels of HLN with each passing year.

The Roof renovation project at Nunnery Wood financed by £500K of CIF funding completed this year. A further £15K of reserves was required to complete the bungalow renovation, which now provides a dedicated home for wraparound care before and after school and SEN and meeting room facilities during the day. IT spend of about £15K in both schools was deferred as part of measures to reduce in-year spending. The heating control firmware at Lyppard Grange failed needing replacement for £14.5K.

With elements of the 2024-25 budget having been announced, the funding floor still lags behind increases in core funding although not as marked as in prior periods (4.9% core funding vs 4.6% funding floor). However, the Mainstream Additional Grant (MSAG) now main-streamed, makes up 3.7% of this, so funds available for staffing increases are only 1.2%. To meet the 5.5% increase in teachers' pay for 2024-25, the new Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) appears to top up funding from 2% leaving schools to find 0.8% of teacher salary plus oncosts, or about £14K in each school. The 5.4% increase in support staff pay has no additional support.

Due to the funding pressures, the Trust had to set a £40K in-year deficit budget for 2023-24. Managing the budget assiduously through careful monitoring and the collective efforts of the staff and senior leadership teams, the deficit has been reduced to £21K despite unforeseen capital spend. Areas such as education resources have been reduced and small-group sizes increased to the point where there is no more to give if pupil outcomes are not to be affected.

Thankfully, we have excellent support from parents to maintain musical provision, trips and after school clubs. Talk about increasing availability of wraparound care has to be considered very carefully as this is a source of valuable income for many schools. But we would urge government to address funding shortfalls as soon as possible.

Fortunately, even with reduced reserves and the in-year funding deficits described above, the Trust has sufficient funds to see it through these difficult times and the Trust remains on a secure footing. The Board will continue to monitor the financial performance of the academies within the Trust. In the medium to long term, further economies can be found through collaborative planning and purchasing arrangements, particularly for the provision of core services such as HR, payroll and other financial services. The Board considers opportunities for making use of central government's National Deals for Schools.

- In the year there was a surplus of £55,000 (2023: deficit £3,274,000) and after movements in the pension fund the net movement in funds totalled a surplus of £170,000 (2023: deficit £2,502,000).
- Closing reserves at 31 August 2024 totalled £5,617,000 (2023: £5,447,000). The closing LGPS pension deficit was £886,000 (2023: £1,120,000) and the restricted fixed asset reserve was £6,158,000 (2023: £6,193,000).

Reserves policy

The Trust's policy is to maintain an adequate level of reserves to provide a stable basis for the continued operation of the Trust and the academies within it, whilst ensuring that excessive funds are not accumulated. Notionally this equates to reserves of at least one month's average salary costs. This ensures that in the event of system errors causing delays to funding payments (GAG), the Trust is able to meet its obligations to pay staff.

Investment policy

It is anticipated that the Trust will have surplus cash available, both as a result of cash flow planning and the implementation of the reserves policy. Such surplus cash should be invested to ensure that the Trust receives an acceptable income stream without putting the funds at risk.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Investment policy (cont'd)**

The Board judges that risk-free bank deposit accounts are the most appropriate place to invest surplus cash at the current time. Advice should be taken from the Trust's bankers and funds invested as follows:

- Working capital to be held in a Lloyds Bank current account or equivalent. A balance of at least 1 month's salary costs should be maintained. It is recognised that a small amount of interest is payable on this balance but that Lloyds also offer academies free banking which results in this lower interest rates on savings.
- Surplus cash should be invested in a mixture of 30-day, 90-day and 12 months' notice accounts with Lloyds Bank or a similar provider. The goal being to earn higher interest rates than on the current account but to stagger easy access to funds over the year to meet cash flow requirements. Investment in any single institution will be limited to the value of the indemnity provided by the Financial Authority overseeing that institution.
- Any interest earned should be paid into the Trust's central budget.

Balances invested should be reported to the Board on a termly basis.

The Board has agreed not to invest reserves in stocks and shares or other volatile investments as these are deemed to represent an unacceptable level of risk to the Trust. Should the Board consider investing funds in anything other than risk-free bank deposit accounts, then it must seek appropriate professional financial advice.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board maintains an effective, graded and up-to-date risk register which is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee as a standing item on every agenda. This is subsequently reported to the full board. The principal risks are related to accurate financial management and reporting, as well as future funding developments, not least because of a shifting political and economic landscape, particularly as a result of the legacy of financial costs of the pandemic nationally. As stated above, errors in published funding allocations do nothing to ease these challenges.

The small decline in pupil numbers on roll due to a lower birth rate within their own and surrounding catchment areas, has already had an impact within Nunnery Wood. Small declines in pupil numbers together with growing uncertainty about the security of full and fair funding for schools is routinely modelled as budgets are forecast for the years ahead. The Board maintains a watchful eye on individual academy performance in terms of pupil outcomes together with future funding indicators and forecast pupil numbers. Trustees are pleased to note an uplift in pupils on roll at the most recent census.

The Risk Register also references management of the school estate. Through the use of Good Estate Management for Schools guidance, Condition Surveys, Facilities Management specialists and construction consultants, the Trust is proactive in its management of the Trust's estate. Investments made in developing and maintaining the estate over the reporting period are testament to the attention this is given.

The Board is acutely aware that poor outcomes for pupils could lead to a decline in pupil numbers and this would have an adverse impact on future funding. The Trust's School Improvement committee, local governing bodies and senior leaders are focused clearly on securing good outcomes for all pupils.

Fundraising

Both schools participate in relatively low-level fundraising activities, largely attracting funds from its parent body through traditional means, ranging from fireworks events to summer fayres and bingo nights. Occasional sponsorship for sports kit has been secured but beyond this there are no formal commercial fundraising relationships.

Neither school has received any complaints in relation to fundraising activity. None of the fundraising ventures of either school could be seen to intrude or place undue pressure on vulnerable people.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

	Lyppard	Nunnery
Pupil Numbers	420	403
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kwh)	189,280	150,885
Energy consumption break down (kwh) (optional)		
• gas	122,566	91,724
• electricity	66,714	59,161
• transport fuel	-	-
	Lyppard	Nunnery
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	25	19
Owened transport – mini-buses		
<u>Total scope 1</u>	25	19
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	28	24
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles		
<u>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	52	43
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.12	0.11
<u>Quantification and Reporting Methodology:</u>		
We have followed the 2024 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.		
<u>Intensity measurement</u>		
The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.		
<u>Measures taken to improve energy efficiency</u>		
We have:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have completed the £500 000 CIF-funded reroofing project at Nunnery Wood. This features significantly upgraded insulation which will deliver reduced energy consumption. • Explored the feasibility of installing PV Solar panels at Lyppard Grange, bidding for new grants available for this purpose. • Exploring the feasibility of installing Electric charging for staff vehicles. 		

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Plans for future periods**

There are several strands to the Board's future plans and these remain broadly similar to those identified in the previous annual report:

- Build on the good outcomes achieved by both schools in their respective Ofsted inspections by addressing the recommendations for improvement around curriculum monitoring and the effective deployment of teaching assistants.
- Continue to address all legacy issues arising from the Covid pandemic – pupils' attendance, pupils' readiness to learn, pupils' social, emotional and mental health, and further narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
- Extending and further strengthening collaborations in teaching and learning between the two existing academies within the Trust, because we know that school-to-school support leads to improved outcomes for pupils.
- Rigorously pursue opportunities to grow the number of academies within the Trust to bolster expertise and enhance capacity to improve. The Trustees continue to work with the local governing bodies to ensure governance of the Trust and each school is fit for purpose and effective in supporting senior leaders to ensure children have the very best possible start in life.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

No funds are held by the Trust as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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



.....
M Rea, Chairman
Chair of Trustees

3 December 2024

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Scope of responsibility**

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

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

Governance

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

The composition of the board of trustees was broadly stable during the year with just two resignations at the end of the academic year. The Board continues to have appropriate experience and expertise, notably within finance, HR, education and property management, as well as business growth and development, and risk management and quality assurance. The Board continues to seek additional trustees to support its activities.

Additional non-executive primary sector education experience would be welcomed to complement the educational expertise provided by the chief executive officer.

During the period the Board has revised its committee structure to ensure its committees remain focused and the remit of each is manageable. There are four committees supporting the work of the full Board: a Business Committee, a Risk and Audit Committee, a Human Resources Committee and a School Improvement Committee. In a further refinement of the structure, Directors from the School Improvement Committee attend Local Governing Body meetings at each school to gather information and quality assure the work of those bodies.

To aid their work, Directors have received regular internal management reports on the Trust's finances both at individual academy level and in consolidated format. The Trust has completed the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool and is compliant in all areas. The Board has received detailed information on pupil outcomes for both academies via internal monitoring by senior leaders, governors and directors. Where available, this information is supplemented by external data sets provided by DfE/Ofsted and through a service level agreement with the Data Analysis team at Worcestershire County Council. Both academies and the Board also make use of an external education consultant. The Board is confident that the quality of information is accurate and reliable and has aided effective decision making.

Trustees consider that the Board and its committees have been effective in discharging their responsibilities and point to the following evidence in support of this assertion:

- All meetings were above the agreed threshold for quoracy (stated as a majority of members)
- Full Board as well as committee meeting attendance is good.
- Actions are, in the majority of cases, completed. No committee stands out as performing less well than others.
- All meetings show evidence of discussion, challenge, and support.

During a period of continued challenge and disruption, the governance arrangements continue to be agile and responsive. Briefing notes and preparatory documents have been issued to aid preparation and ensure that the Directors make informed decisions.

The Business Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board. It is chaired by a senior qualified accountant. Its purpose is to provide scrutiny and oversight of the Trust's financial position and activity, with lead responsibility for considering funding and budget setting and management. The committee also sets the Trust's financial procedures as well as having responsibility for the Trust's estate and asset management.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Governance (cont'd)**

The Audit and Risk Committee keeps under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements, as well as its arrangements for securing value for money, through reports and assurances received from management, internal audit, the external auditor and any other relevant independent assurances or reports.

In addition, the Audit and Risk Committee also keeps under review the Trust's financial management and reporting arrangements, providing constructive challenge (where necessary) to the actions and judgements of management in relation to the interim management and financial accounts and statements.

The Audit and Risk Committees also sets and reviews the internal audit programme and ensures that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the Trust. It reviews reports and recommendations of the internal audit, together with the appropriateness of management's response and monitors the implementation of action agreed by management in response to reports from the auditor including the annual management letter.

Record of Trustees' Attendance 2023-2024

Name	24/10/2023	4/12/2023	06/02/2024	19/03/2024	21/05/2024	02/07/2024	Maximum Possible	Total Attended
Kate Bailey	*	*	*	Resigned			3	0
Sue Duley	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*	6	4
Phil Jackson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
Kay Kavanagh	✓	*	✓	*	✓	✓	6	4
Vickie Lee	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	Resigned 31/08/24	6	5
Marcus Rea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
Steve Robson		Newly appointed	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	4
Steve Salisbury	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6
Raman Sall				Newly appointed	✓	✓	2	2
Sarah Turner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The CEO ordinarily acts as the Accounting Officer. 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 Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer has continued to deliver improved value for money during the year by:

- keeping the staffing structure in both academies under review and deploying staff efficiently to support the curriculum and reflecting the intake of both schools within the Trust
- continuing to ensure expenditure is closely aligned to securing good outcomes for pupils
- ensuring that specified funding, such as Pupil Premium, Catch-Up and PE Sports grants, is spent as intended and achieves the required impact

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Governance (cont'd)**

- continuing to engage with other academies and maintained schools to share good practice
- ensuring services and contracts are appraised and renegotiated to ensure they are fit for purpose
- ensuring the Trust has robust internal controls to monitor all financial processes
- having suitably qualified and experienced staff working within the financial departments of the schools
- seeking advice and support from other professionals to ensure regulations within the Academy Trust Handbook are adhered to and outcomes for children maximised
- having strong Local Governing Bodies with relevant skill sets able to both support and challenge
- benchmarking costs against similar organisations to identify areas for making savings

Three specific examples will help to show how Trust activity is maximising value for pupils, parents, and the wider community:

- Nunnery Wood won the "Gold Ticket" award from Tesco's blue coin customer collections for £5000. This has been used to fund a beautiful permanent gazebo in the grounds which children can use at playtimes and can also be used as a learning space for small groups.
- With the 3-year IT technician service from Capita coming to an end, the opportunity was taken to review potential services from other suppliers and ones with much better remote support capability so that expensive on-site support could be reduced whilst at the same time, the breadth of technical support could be extended within a reduced budget. Chestnut Infrastructure were the eventual choice and they manage all aspects of IT support including Broadband, and are standardising our systems such that we can extend our support to other schools.
- 2023-24 saw the launch the new holiday clubs run during half-terms and the Easter and Summer holidays. The activity is run from Lyppard Grange but open to children from both schools and resourced by staff from both schools. The service is appreciated by both pupils and parents and, from a steady start, is growing as the programme of activity develops and word of mouth spreads.

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; therefore, it can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing significant risks to the Trust, 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 financial statements. This process is regularly and robustly reviewed by the Board.

The risk and control framework

The 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. It includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and regular and consistent financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board.
- regular reviews by the Business 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 aspects of performance.
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- identification and management of risks.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**The risk and control framework**

The Board has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed Thorne Wiggery LLP as internal auditors. Their audit function includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing of purchase systems and processes.

On an annual basis, the auditor reports directly to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditors prepare a summary report to the Board outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The internal audit report shows that policies, systems and procedures are broadly sound; minor recommendations have been suggested and are acted upon.

On an annual basis, the external auditors report to the Board on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities. The reviewers have delivered their schedule of work as planned, provided details of any material control issues arising and, if relevant, described what remedial action is being taken to rectify the issues.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the Senior Leadership Team within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Good Estate Management for Schools

The Accounting Officer has acted on the above advice, implementing a plan to address weaknesses identified, and continued monitoring helps to ensure continuous improvement of the system.

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.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 3 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Marcus Rea - Chair of Trustees
03 December 2024



.....
Sian Williams - Accounting Officer
03 December 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the academy will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 3 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Marcus Rea
Chair of Trustees

3 December 2024

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

As Accounting Officer of The Villages' Multi Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the board of trustees and the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement, between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibility for estates safety and management.

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregular, 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.



.....
Sian Williams
Accounting Officer

3 December 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Villages' Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statement, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement 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 The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and the Trustees Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the The Villages' Multi 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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

Based on our understanding of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's net income for the year.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

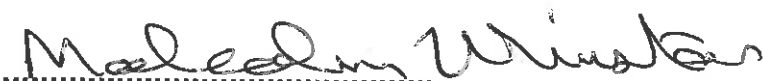
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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. 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.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)****Use of our report**

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



.....
Malcolm Winston

Senior Statutory Auditor

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor

9-11 Vittoria Street

Birmingham

B1 3ND

3 December 2024

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 June 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 the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with our engagement letter. Our review has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body and the ESFA those matters we are required to state to it in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trusts funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 July 2013, and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2023 for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's general activities are within the multi academy trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;


INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

Approach (cont'd)

- Review of the general control environment for the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust on financial statements and on regularity;
- Sample testing of expenditure transactions to ensure the activity is permissible within the multi academy trust's framework of authority;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the multi academy trust's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or trustees; and
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the multi academy trust's charitable objectives.

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
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

3 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted		
	Note	Funds	General	Fixed	Total	Total
		£'000	Funds	Asset	2024	2023
		£'000	£'000	Funds	£'000	£'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	1	-	120	121	437
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	4,917	-	4,917	4,620
Other trading activities	5	34	-	-	34	12
Investment income	6	10	-	-	10	2
Total		45	4,917	120	5,082	5,071
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	16	1	-	17	6
Charitable activities:						
- Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	4,833	177	5,010	8,339
Total		16	4,834	177	5,027	8,345
Net income/(expenditure)		29	83	(57)	55	(3,274)
Transfers between funds	17	1	(23)	22	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	115	-	115	772
Net movement in funds		30	175	(35)	170	(2,502)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	17	229	(975)	6,193	5,447	7,949
Total funds carried forward	17	259	(800)	6,158	5,617	5,447

All of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's activities derive from acquisitions and continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	6,158	6,189
		<u>6,158</u>	<u>6,189</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	98	317
Cash at bank and in hand		641	840
		<u>739</u>	<u>1,157</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(392)	(776)
Net current assets		<u>347</u>	<u>381</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		6,505	6,570
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(2)	(3)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>6,503</u>	<u>6,567</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	29	(886)	(1,120)
Total Net Assets		<u><u>5,617</u></u>	<u><u>5,447</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
- Fixed asset fund	17	6,158	6,193
- Restricted income fund	17	86	145
- Pension reserve	17	(886)	(1,120)
Total Restricted Funds		<u>5,358</u>	<u>5,218</u>
Unrestricted income fund	17	<u>259</u>	<u>229</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>259</u>	<u>229</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>5,617</u></u>	<u><u>5,447</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 50 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 3 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Marcus Rea
 Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	21	(182)	258
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(16)	(185)
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(1)	(1)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(199)</u>	<u>72</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September	24	840	768
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	24	<u>641</u>	<u>840</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

Basis of Preparation

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

The Villages' Multi-Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

• Grants

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

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

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

• 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 receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

• Donations

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

• Other income

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**• 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'.

• Donated goods, facilities and services

Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'. Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be 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.

Expenditure

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

• Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

• Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

Interest receivable

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 50 Years
Furniture and equipment	- 20% Straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% Straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% Straight line

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

Debtors

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

Cash at bank and in hand

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

Liabilities

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Financial instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised costs as detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Operating leases

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

Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 25, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities.

The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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.

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

Any LGPS surpluses will only be recognised as an asset in the financial statements to the extent that the academy trust can recover this surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the academy trust.

THE VILLAGES' MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024 (see note 17).

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	120	120	400
Other ESFA capital grants	-	-	-	37
Donations	1	-	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>437</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £121,000 (2023: £437,000) of which £1,000 (2023: £Nil) was unrestricted, £Nil (2023: £Nil) restricted and £120,000 (2023: £437,000) restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	3,670	3,670	3,510
Rates relief grant	-	17	17	8
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Universal infant free school meals grant	-	149	149	138
PE and sports grant	-	40	40	40
Pupil premium grant	-	186	186	192
Teachers pay grant	-	62	62	-
Teachers pension grant	-	31	31	-
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	96
Mainstream additional schools grant	-	119	119	50
National Tutoring Programme	-	4	4	7
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,278</u>	<u>4,278</u>	<u>4,041</u>
Other Government grants				
Special educational needs	-	245	245	233
Local authority grants	-	17	17	22
	<u>-</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>255</u>
COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Recovery Premium	-	18	18	30
	<u>-</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>30</u>
Other income from the academy trust's				
Club & trip income	-	354	354	294
Other grants	-	5	5	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>294</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>4,620</u>

The income from funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations was restricted for both 2024 and 2023.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	1	-	1	-
Other income	33	-	33	12
	34	-	34	12

The income from the academy trusts' other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Bank interest received	10	-	10	2
	10	-	10	2

The income from the academy trusts' investment activities was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

7 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
		Premises	ther Costs £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Allocated support costs	-	-	17	17	6
			17	17	6
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	3,403	-	240	3,643	3,684
- Allocated support costs	637	366	364	1,367	4,655
	4,040	366	604	5,010	8,339
	4,040	366	621	5,027	8,345

The expenditure was £5,027,000 (2023: £8,345,000) of which £16,000 (2023: £6,000) was unrestricted, £4,834,000 (2023: £4,713,000) restricted and £177,000 (2023: £3,626,000) restricted fixed assets.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:		
Operating leases rentals	10	6
Depreciation	177	175
Impairments	-	3,451
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	10	8
- other services	5	6

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Direct costs - educational operations	3,643	3,684
Support costs - educational operations	1,367	4,655
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>8,339</u>

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Analysis of Support Costs		
Support staff costs	637	567
Depreciation	177	175
Impairment	-	3,451
Technology costs	70	14
Premises costs	189	159
Other support costs	174	208
Governance costs	120	81
	<u>1,367</u>	<u>4,655</u>

9 STAFF COSTS**a Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were:

	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Wages and salaries	3,006	2,836
Social security costs	268	241
Pension costs	699	744
Other employee benefits	-	-
	<u>3,973</u>	<u>3,821</u>

Agency staff costs

Staff restructuring costs

55	85
12	-
<u>4,040</u>	<u>3,906</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Other restructuring costs

12	-
<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>

b Staff severance contractual and non contractual payments

The academy trust paid no severance payments in the year (2023: £nil)

c Special staff severance non contractual payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £Nil (2023 : £Nil).

Individually, the payments were £Nil.

d Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including School Leadership Team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Charitable Activities		
Teachers	37	40
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	90	84
Management	5	5
	<u>132</u>	<u>129</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

9 STAFF COSTS (cont'd)**e Higher paid staff**

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

	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

f Key management personnel

The key management of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on page 3. 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 £512,065 (2023: £516,659).

10 CENTRAL SERVICES

The Villages Multi Academy Trust has provided the following central services to Lyppard Grange Primary & Nunnary Wood Primary

- Chief Executive Officer
- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Use of Facilities
- IT
- Education Support Services

The Villages Multi Academy Trust charges for these services a management fee based on expected costs which are proportioned between each academy based on pupil numbers.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:		
Lyppard Grange Primary	93	-
Nunnary Wood	93	-
	<u>186</u>	<u>-</u>

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

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

	2024	2023
P Jackson, Executive Officer (retired 31 August 2024)		
Remuneration	£90,000 - £95,000	£85,000 - £90,000
Employers pension	£20,000 - £25,000	£20,000 - £25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenses totalling £Nil were reimbursed or paid directly to no Trustees (2023 - £Nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**12 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

in accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £Nil (2022 - £NIL). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Furniture & Equipment	Plant & Machinery	Computer Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
Cost	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2023	5,866	163	6	180	536	6,751
Additions	-	6	17	3	120	146
Reclassification	656	-	-	-	(656)	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>6,522</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,897</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2023	335	71	5	151	-	562
Charged in year	129	28	2	18	-	177
At 31 August 2024	<u>464</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>739</u>
Net book value						
At 31 August 2024	<u>6,058</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,158</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,531</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>6,189</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
14 DEBTORS		
VAT recoverable	37	246
Prepayments and accrued income	61	71
	<u>98</u>	<u>317</u>
15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	8	465
Pensions Payable	86	70
Salix loan	1	1
Taxation & social security	59	54
Accruals	108	87
Deferred income	130	99
	<u>392</u>	<u>776</u>
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	99	66
Resources deferred in the	130	99
Amounts recognised as income during the year	(99)	(66)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>130</u>	<u>99</u>

At the balancesheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for 2024/25 for universal infant free school meals £87,349 (2023: £84,545), music tuition £3,479 (2023: £7,305), trip income £6,055 (2023: £7,128) and other income £33,297.

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN GREATER THAN ONE YEAR		
Salix loan	2	3
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

The Salix loan of £1,889 (2023: 2,646) is provided interest free and is repayable over 8 year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

17 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy applied for specific purposes are as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources Resources Expended £'000	£'000	Gains, Balance at Losses & 31 August Transfers £'000	2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (i)	145	3,670	(3,719)	(23)	73
Rates relief grant (ii)	-	17	(17)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (iii)	-	186	(186)	-	-
PE and Sports grant (iv)	-	40	(40)	-	-
UIFSM grant (v)	-	149	(149)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (vi)	-	62	(62)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (vii)	-	31	(31)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding (viii)	-	18	(18)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	119	(119)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants (ix)	-	4	(4)	-	-
LA special educational needs grant (x)	-	245	(245)	-	-
LA pupil premium grant (xi)	-	17	(17)	-	-
Other grants	-	5	(5)	-	-
Club & trip income (xii)	-	354	(341)	-	13
Total general funds	145	4,917	(4,953)	(23)	86
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note vii)	431	120	(11)	(2)	538
Fixed assets donation - (note vii)	5,577	-	(148)	-	5,429
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds (note vii)	185	-	(18)	24	191
	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed asset funds	6,193	120	(177)	22	6,158
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note viii)	(1,120)	-	119	115	(886)
	(1,120)	-	119	115	(886)
Total restricted funds	5,218	5,037	(5,011)	114	5,358
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note xvii)	229	45	(16)	1	259
Total unrestricted funds	229	45	(16)	1	259
Total funds	5,447	5,082	(5,027)	115	5,617

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**17 FUNDS (cont'd)****Notes**

- i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the School. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2023. (see note 2)
- ii) Income from the Rates Relief grant, directly offsets the rates charges by the local borough council.
- iii) Pupil Premium grant has been used to support children from low income families placed at the school.
- iv) Income offsets spend on various educational activities and resources relating directly to PE and
- v) UIFSM grant is utilised directly to offset school catering costs
- vi) Income offsets teacher salary costs.
- vii) Income offsets teacher pension costs.
- viii) Exceptional Covid grants have been used to provide catch up tuition and cover additional
- ix) Grants relating to moderation & phonics, supplementary and mainstream schools additional grants for support in delivering the curriculum.
- x) Special needs grant has been used to support enhanced learning for children with special educational needs.
- xi) Catch up premium is spent predominantly on Teaching resources and ICT equipment/Licences to support those children for who the grant was intended.
- xii) Represents income received relating to pupil catering and educational trips.
- xiii) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants, a transfer from General Annual Grant (GAG) and by WCC donating Academy land and buildings on a 125 year lease at a pepper corn
- xiv) Restricted fixed asset additions were funded by DfE/ESFA grants and transfers from restricted funds.
- xv) The gross transfer from the restricted general fund to the restricted fixed asset fund of £22,000 (2022 : £191,000) represents the total capital expenditure from GAG during the year.
- xvi) The pension reserve represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (see note 29).
- xvii) Unrestricted funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives of the academy trust at the discretion of the directors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

17 FUNDS (cont'd)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources Resources Expended £'000	£'000	Gains, Balance at Losses & 31 August Transfers 2023 £'000	£'000
Restricted general funds	415	3,510	(3,589)	(191)	145
General annual grant (GAG) (i)	415	3,510	(3,589)	(191)	145
Rates relief grant (ii)	-	8	(8)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (iii)	-	192	(192)	-	-
PE and Sports grant (iv)	-	40	(40)	-	-
UIFSM grant (v)	-	138	(138)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (vi)	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant (vii)	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding (viii)	-	30	(30)	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	96	(96)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	50	(50)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants (ix)	-	7	(7)	-	-
LA special educational needs grant (x)	-	233	(233)	-	-
LA pupil premium grant (xi)	-	22	(22)	-	-
Club & trip income (xii)	-	294	(294)	-	-
Total general funds	415	4,620	(4,699)	(191)	145
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note vii)	-	437	(6)	-	431
Fixed assets donation - (note vii)	9,191	-	(3,614)	-	5,577
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds (note vii)	-	-	(6)	191	185
Total fixed asset funds	9,191	437	(3,626)	191	6,193
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note viii)	(1,878)	-	(14)	772	(1,120)
	(1,878)	-	(14)	772	(1,120)
Total restricted funds	7,728	5,057	(8,339)	772	5,218
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note xvii)	221	14	(6)	-	229
Total unrestricted funds	221	14	(6)	-	229
Total funds	7,949	5,071	(8,345)	772	5,447

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

17 TOTAL FUND ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY	2024	2023
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:	£'000	£'000
Grange Primary School	149	154
Nunnary Wood Primary School	192	220
Central Services	4	
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	345	374
Restricted fixed assets fund	6,158	6,193
Pension reserve	(886)	(1,120)
Total	5,617	5,447

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Deprec'n) £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Lyppard Grange	1,603	418	156	271	2,448	2,446
Nunnery Wood	1,673	271	81	292	2,317	2,273
Central Services	127	(52)	3	7	85	-
Total	3,403	637	240	570	4,850	19,861

18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed	-	-	-	6,158	6,158
Current assets	259	-	480	-	739
Current liabilities	-	-	(392)	-	(392)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
Pension scheme liability	-	(886)	-	-	(886)
	259	(886)	86	6,158	5,617

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed	-	-	-	6,189	6,189
Current assets	229	-	924	4	1,157
Current liabilities	-	-	(776)	-	(776)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(3)	-	(3)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,120)	-	-	(1,120)
	229	(1,120)	145	6,193	5,447

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

19 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	106
	<u>-</u>	<u>106</u>
20 LONG TERM COMMITMENTS INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES		
<i>Operating leases</i>		
At 31 August 2024 the total of the Lumen Christi Catholic Multi Academy Company's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:		
	2024	2023
	Other	Other
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year	10	10
Amounts due between one and five years	21	31
Amounts due more than five years	-	-
	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>
21 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	55	(3,274)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 13)	177	175
Impairments	-	3,451
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(120)	(437)
Interest receivable	(10)	(2)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 29)	(169)	(59)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 29)	50	73
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	219	(144)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(384)	475
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(182)</u>	<u>258</u>
22 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Interest received	10	2
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(146)	(624)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	120	437
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(16)</u>	<u>(185)</u>
23 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Repayments of borrowing	(1)	(1)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

24 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	At 31 Aug 2024	At 31 Aug 2023
	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand and at bank	641	840
Total cash and cash equivalents	641	840

25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 Sept 2023	Cash Flows	At 31 Aug 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank	840	(199)	641
Overdraft	-	-	-
	840	(199)	641
Loans within one year	(1)	-	(1)
Loans within more than one year	(3)	1	(2)
	836	(198)	638

27 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

During the period of the funding agreement between the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the funding agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust serving notice, the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust is obliged to repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- a) the value at that time of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's sites and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust; and
- b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the funding agreement.

28 MEMBER LIABILITY

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**29 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

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

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the The Villages' Multi Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust's at the balance sheet date.

The total pension cost to the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 was £699,000 (2023: £744,000) of which £439,000 (2023: £387,000) relates to the TPS and £260,000 (2023: £357,000) relates to LGPS.

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 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £80,151 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2023: £70,102) and are included within other creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**29 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)****Teachers' Pension Scheme****Introduction**

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' 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 costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £379,000 (2023: £387,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

29 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £452,000 (2023: £410,000) of which employers contributions totalled £379,000 (2023: £343,000) and employees contributions totalled £73,000 (2023: £67,000).

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £410,000 (2022: £364,000) Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 Aug August 2024	Aug August 2023
	% per annum	% per annum
Discount rate	5.0%	5.3%
Salary increases	5.0%	4.3%
Pension increase	<u>2.7%</u>	<u>2.9%</u>

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
	Approx Change to Employers Liability £'000	Approx Change to Employers Liability £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	78	61
Salary increase rate increased by 0.1%	2	61
Pension increase rate increased by 0.1%	<u>78</u>	<u>61</u>

The mortality assumptions used were as follows:

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
	years	years
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	21.2	21.5
- Women	23.6	23.8
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	22.5	22.8
- Women	<u>25.4</u>	<u>25.6</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

29 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

The Villages' Multi Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2024	Fair value at 31 August 2023
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	1,834	1,501
Debt instruments	219	47
Property	657	168
Cash and other liquid assets	27	18
Other assets	-	316
Total market value of assets	<u>2,737</u>	<u>2,050</u>
Present value of scheme liabilities:		
- Funded	2,737	2,050
- Unfunded	886	1,120
Total liabilities	<u>3,623</u>	<u>3,170</u>
Deficit in the scheme	<u>(886)</u>	<u>(1,120)</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a surplus of £291,000 (2023: £37,000 deficit).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	210	279
Interest income	(119)	(73)
Interest cost	169	146
Administration expenses	-	5
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	<u>260</u>	<u>357</u>

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Changes in deficit during the year:		
Balance at 1 September	1,120	1,878
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	210	279
- Employer contributions	(379)	(343)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(119)	(73)
- Interest cost	169	146
- Administration expenses	-	5
- Actuarial gains	(115)	(772)
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August	<u>886</u>	<u>1,120</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

29 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 September	3,170	3,412
Current service cost	210	279
Interest cost	169	146
Contributions by scheme participants	73	67
Benefits paid	(56)	(73)
Actuarial losses/(gains)	57	(661)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August	<u>3,623</u>	<u>3,170</u>
Changes in the fair value of the share of scheme assets:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 September	2,050	1,534
Expected return on scheme assets	119	73
Actuarial gains	172	111
Contributions by employer	379	343
Benefits paid	(56)	(73)
Contributions by scheme participants	73	67
Administration expenses	-	(5)
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August	<u>2,737</u>	<u>2,050</u>

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2025 is £384,000 (2024: £343,000).

30 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

The spouse of P Jackson, previous Accounting Officer & Trustee, and the spouse of M Rea, Trustee, are employed by the Trust as teachers. The appointments were made prior to conversion from LA to an academy in open competition and the related Trustee was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. Remuneration is paid within the normal pay scale for their roles.

One of the Trust directors, Mr S Salisbury, is an architectural designer. During this period, Mr Salisbury provided design services associated with the renovation and refurbishment of the former caretaker's bungalow at Nunnery Wood Primary School at a value of £Nil (2023: £1,250). These services were provided at cost.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustee's remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

31 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.