

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	D J Blake MBE J Burge K Haisman BEM P Stanbury-Jones R M Smith S Ash
Trustees	C G Hawkins K Haisman, Chair P K Luxon R A Kelly S Goldsmith, Vice Chair (resigned 22 April 2024) R Goodchild H Marsh (resigned 26 March 2024)
Company registered number	07226557
Company name	Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited
Principal and registered office	Cavendish Road Clare Sudbury Suffolk CO10 8PJ
Chief executive officer	Rachel Kelly
Independent auditors	Larking Gowen LLP Chartered Accountants 1 Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham Ipswich IP6 0NL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 30 Market Street Sudbury CO10 2EL
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson LLP Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Senior management

- R A Kelly - Head Teacher (Stour Valley)
- C Bank - Deputy Head (Stour Valley)
- K Cullimore - Trust Business Manager
- G Stronach - Assistant Head (Stour Valley)
- J Nunn - Assistant Head (Stour Valley)
- L Stranger - Head Teacher (Clare Primary)
- R Davies - Assistant Head (Clare Primary)
- M McIvor - Assistant Head (Clare Primary)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The Trust consists of two schools: Stour Valley Community School is a secondary school for pupils age 11-16 with 579 students on roll at the end of the year and Clare Community Primary School, with 198 students on roll.

The principal aim of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is to advance, for the public benefit, education in Clare and the surrounding area by establishing, maintaining and operating schools offering a broad curriculum

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration No. 07226557) and is an exempt charity. It is not required to be registered with the Charity Commission but is, however, subject to the Charity Commissioners' regulatory powers which are monitored by the Secretary of State for Education. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

There were no Trustee indemnity provisions during the year or at the date of approval of this report.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

As and when new Trustees are required for appointment, consideration is made as to the skills needed to augment the effectiveness of the Board. The Trustees are appointed under the terms of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's Articles of Association as follows:

- The number of Trustees shall be not less than three
- Up to eight Trustees (excluding staff, parents, LA, ex officio and co-opted)
- A minimum of two Parent Trustees
- The Local Authority (LA) may appoint an LA Trustee
- The Headteacher as CEO Trustee
- Co-opted Trustees

The Trustees have a breadth of skills which are beneficial to the various sub-committees that support the Board of Trustees. The term of office for all Trustees, except the CEO, is four years. The CEO's term of office runs parallel with their contract of employment

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary an induction will provide training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All new Trustees are given a tour of the Academy Trust, and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees and directors of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited. In addition, the Trust buys in external training programmes. A record of attendance at training sessions is maintained by the Administration Team. As there is normally expected to be only a small number of new Trustees each year induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

f. Organisational structure

As specified in the Memorandum of Association, Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is responsible for running Stour Valley Community School and Clare Community Primary School. The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academies, and senior staff appointments. The Trustees are responsible for the monitoring and performance of the Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team on a regular basis. Since January 2018 each of the schools within the Trust has a dedicated Local Governing Body with powers assigned through a Scheme of Delegation.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Academy Trust are the CEO (also Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School) and CFO plus the two Headteachers, one Deputy Head Teachers and five Assistant Headteachers, three at SVCS and two at CCPS. The Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School is the CEO of the Trust and has line management responsibility for the Headteacher of Clare Primary Community School. These managers control the Academies at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment Boards for posts in the Senior Leadership Team always contain a Trustee. Spending control is contained within the Senior Leadership Team.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

The Headteachers' performance management targets are set by the Chair of Trustees, or the CEO where appropriate, and the Chair of the relevant Local Governing Body, and are based in part on the School Development and Improvement Plan with additional personal development targets. The targets are reviewed regularly by the Chair of Trustees/CEO. The Headteachers set performance targets for other members of the SLT. All staff in Stour Valley Educational Trust are employed on the terms of the National Pay and Conditions framework. Performance against targets is reviewed for all SLT members within the timelines set down in the framework and salary increases are awarded accordingly, where appropriate. All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration are approved by the appropriate committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

h. Trade Union facility time

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year - 1 (Full-time equivalent employee number - 0.8).

Percentage of time spent on facility time

The schools hosted/participated in six meeting sessions during the course of the year where staff were invited to discuss topics with their union officials and staff. It is estimated that the total time spent on union business over the year is between 5-10% during term time. In total this amounts to approximately £1,920–£3,840 per annum.

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trustees are not aware of any connected organisations or related party transactions during the year other than those disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements. The Trust also receives donated goods and gifts from the parents of both schools which are donated for school purposes.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is the operation of Stour Valley Community School and Clare Community Primary School to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 5 to 16.

The wider objective of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum or educational institutions which a principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students or schools specially organised to make special educational provisions for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

In addition to being governed by its Articles of Association, Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited entered into a Funding Agreement on 27 May 2011 with the Secretary of State for Education. Clare Community Primary School was transferred to the Trust under a Funding Agreement dated 28 March 2017. The Funding Agreements specify, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the schools, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the broad and balanced curriculum includes English, Mathematics and Science.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's strategies are grouped under the strapline 'Stour Valley Educational Trust, With Community at its Heart'. The strands are set out below.

Our Vision

Stour Valley Educational Trust will provide a secure, stimulating, and inclusive centre of academic excellence in rural education. Central to our vision is the belief in the uniqueness of every student, and that every young person has gifts to discover and share with others. We are committed to building brighter futures for our students, our local community and the wider world. We want our students to be happy and confident, but also be caring and value diversity. Above all we want them to have a thirst for knowledge and a real enthusiasm for life.

Our Mission

Our mission is to open students' minds to their personal potential and enable them to aspire to brighter academic, professional and vocational futures in our community and beyond. This in turn will lead our students to achieve economic independence with national and international employers or with the growing regionally based industries in Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex.

Values

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be Ambitious, Collaborate

Our Strategic Priorities

Sustainability

Sustaining our Trust as a centre of academic excellence in rural education at secondary and primary level is our overarching strategic objective. Academic excellence will be delivered by the schools in our Multi Academy Trust that serve the communities of Clare and surrounding villages, which retain their individual identity and champion the Trust's values, while seeking out and sharing best practice in all aspects of education.

Our sustainability will require our schools to attract consistently high student numbers, to continually manage budgets closely, and to develop new income streams.

Continuous Improvement

To further sustain our Trust, we must be better at everything we do! If we are not continually getting better at everything we do then we are either standing still or going backwards. As custodians of our students' futures, we have a duty to deliver the very best in curriculum and teaching and learning strategies supported by effective processes and strong communications.

Continuous development of our staff and the seeking out of best practice in teaching and learning, pastoral care and the well-being of staff and students, will enable us to challenge the content and delivery of our curriculum to ensure that it meets the current and developing needs of all our students. This will require a defined and measurable cycle of continuous improvement across the Trust and will lead to improving levels of student outcomes.

Strong governance by Trustees and Governors will be critical to our success: external and self-assessment of our governance will lead to further trustee/governor training and development.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

Inspired learners

It is our responsibility to develop our students into curious, enquiring and inspired learners who have a true thirst for knowledge which goes well beyond the confines of national examinations and a broad and balanced curriculum. By opening students minds we can engender a love of learning and self-improvement which will enrich their personal and professional lives. Our curriculum and extra-curricular activities must take every opportunity to challenge our students to become inquisitive and inspired learners.

Community

The schools in our Trust are rooted in their local community. Our schools are themselves communities. Whether looking inward within our schools or outward into local society, it is our duty as custodians of our young people's futures to ensure that they understand the benefits and responsibilities that come with being in a strong and caring community. There are unwritten rules of mutual respect and understanding, of decency and behaviour, and of mutual support and caring. It is our duty to ensure that students engage in a wide range of activities and are equipped with an understanding of community and civic responsibilities so they can take a full part in their communities now and in later life.

Collaboration

We will embrace the opportunities offered by working collaboratively and building partnerships with colleagues in suitable schools, Trusts and other organisations to raise attainment for all young people.

Collaboration will be a vital tool to improve teaching and learning, leadership, the use of data and assessments and to add capacity to our critical school support systems through traded service level agreements.

We will actively seek out partners, ideally those with similar characteristics or ethos to our own, where possible geographically close, and with the same commitment to 'getting better at what we do'.

c. Public benefit

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

The objective of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in Clare and the surrounding area.

Staff and students at both Trust schools regularly engage in community activities in support of local community groups and with local businesses.

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

Major KPIs on which the Trustees receive regular reports include:

- Student numbers
- Expenditure budgets and cash flow
- Student behaviour
- Reports on progress in teaching and learning
- Progress towards school targets

Stour Valley Community School GCSE Targets and Outcomes
Context

	Attainment 8	English 4-9	English 5-9	Maths 4-9	Maths 5- 9	English and Maths 4-9	English and Maths 5-9
2024 FFT20 Target	5.2	91%	73%	89%	69.3%	89%	61%
2024 FFT50 Target	4.7	89%	59%	82%	58%	81%	51%
2024 Actual	4.8	75%	61%	78%	63%	69%	49%
2023 Actual	4.7	70%	51%	72%	53%	60%	43%

All key performance indicators have shown improvement against 2023. This is despite a national trend of less top grades being awarded and higher grade boundaries in most subjects. SVCS are making good progress towards achieving FFT20 measures.

Gender: Historically both at SVCS and nationally boys have had lower outcomes than their female counterparts. The 2024 year 11 cohort was particularly boy heavy but on average attainment for boys was higher than for girls. This was a smaller gap (0.3) and was matched by predictions based on Key Stage 2 data.

SEND: In previous years there has been a significant gap between attainment of SEND and non-SEND students. This has narrowed significantly over the past few years, and this is again the case this year. On average targets are lower for SEND students but the expectation on schools is to accelerate progress over their time at secondary school (it is worth noting that in 2023 progress for SEND students was above expected levels at SVCS). The work of our teachers, and particularly the SEND department, is making a real difference in this area.

Disadvantaged: The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students has once again narrowed but remains significant. This is a focus for this, and future years as it is important that all students have equal opportunities for success

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Student numbers

SVCS continued to receive mid-year transfers of students and was successful at attracting students for the 2023/24 academic year. The number of students on roll as at October census 2023 was 579.

CCPS continues to grow in popularity as a result of a clear vision of excellent standards in the core subjects supported by an emphasis on the creative curriculum. Student numbers were at 198 for October 2023 census, right up from October 2021 census (which was at 180) with 191 on roll at the census in October 2022.

Clare Community Primary School Targets and Outcomes

EYFS Data

Reception result + current year	CCPS 2022 result <i>Current Year 3</i>	CCPS 2023 result <i>(Current Year 2)</i>	CCPS 2024 result <i>(Current Year 1)</i>	LA	National 2023 result for comparison
EYFS GLD	86.7%	82.1%	80%	67.6%	67.2%

Phonics Data

	CCPS 2022 result <i>(Current Year 4)</i>	CCPS 2023 result <i>(Current Year 3)</i>	CCPS 2024 result <i>(Current Year 2)</i>	LA	National 2023 result for comparison
Phonics	64%	95% (Class of 21)	82.8%	79.9%	79%

KS2 results

	CCPS 2022 result	CCPS 2023 result	CCPS 2024 result	LA	National
KS2 Reading	78.1%	86.7%	80%	73%	74%
KS2 Writing	56.3%	70%	73.3%	69.9%	72%
KS2 Maths	53.1%	56.7%	70%	69.8%	73%
KS2 RWM	46.9%	46.7%	66.7%	57.6%	61%

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

KS1 Results *Only 21 in class so lower percentage does not have statistical significance)

Year 2 results per year +their current year	CCPS 2022 result (Current Year 5)	CCPS 2023 result (Current Year 4)	CCPS 2024 result (Current Year 3)	LA	National 2023 result for comparison
KS1 Reading	46.7%	50%	76.2%	69.7%	68%
KS1 Writing	30%	43.3%	57.1%*	59.3%	60%
KS1 Maths	50%	53.3%	76.2%	69.8%	70%

KS2 results are above national in Reading and Writing and just slightly under in Maths. They are above county average in all areas. The combined RWM is above both national (+5.7%) and county average (+9.1%)

c. Going concern

Following the detailed due diligence of potential merger partners reported in last year's Annual Report, further discussions took place with the DfE and subsequently Trustees agreed unanimously to enter into discussions with Anglian Learning as the preferred partner. Trustees entered a Heads of Terms agreement with Anglian Learning in April 2024. Due to the announcement of the parliamentary election, the approval of the DfE was received only on 23 October 2024 and 1 March 2025 has been agreed as the date on which our schools will transfer to Anglian Learning.

In light of these changes in strategic direction, the Trustees have decided to adopt an other than going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details can be found in the accounting policies.

Financial review

a. Financial review

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's accounting period is from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. Most of the Academy Trust's income was obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA), an executive arm of the Department for Education (DfE), in the form of General Annual Grant (GAG) which is the per capita funding required to run the school and deliver the curriculum.

As central government funding has become tighter and not kept pace with wage inflation it has been necessary to implement still tighter controls over internal cost centres, to keep all expenditure within allocated budgets and seek efficiencies. Unless government funding improves, Trustees are aware that similar challenges will be faced in future years. The Trustees have continued to maintain the curriculum to meet the needs of all ability levels of our student population.

The in-year deficit for the Trust, being the change in restricted funds (excluding pension reserves) plus movement in unrestricted funds, was £223,460. This was a conscious effort to improve schools facilities and resources and reduce free reserves to be in line with the reserves policy of 5% of GAG.

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

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels monthly. The review takes into account the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of reserves. The Trustees will keep the level of reserves under review.

In light of ESFA guidance and after a review of other comparable trusts, Trustees amended the reserves policy and agreed to maintain a level of reserves at 5% of GAG. A prioritised schedule of capital investment plans was agreed as part of the 3-year plan approval process to ensure the effective use of any reserves over the 5% level. The investment plans are monitored at each Trust Board meeting.

The Academy Trust currently holds £86,341 of unrestricted reserves and £137,283 of restricted general funds. As at 31 August 2024, the Trust held total funds of £8,121,757, of which £8,035,416 was restricted funds, including fixed assets which were carried at £7,895,717. As at 31 August 2024 our reserves stood at 5.1% of GAG income.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy Trust. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Trust faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls, in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the statement on internal control.

The school has a comprehensive set of policies covering inter alia the teaching of the curriculum, the management of school facilities and operational procedures. These policies were reviewed by the relevant committees in the year under review.

During the year the Trustees continued to develop their comprehensive risk management procedures for the Academy Trust. These help to identify and monitor the risks faced by the Academy Trust. The key risk areas identified for inclusion are Strategy, Governance, Skills, Health and Safety including Covid risks, Safeguarding, IT, Business continuity and Financial Reporting and Management related. A point scoring mechanism has been put in place with a greater emphasis directed towards those areas identified as being higher risk.

Having identified the RAAC in the upper floor ceiling of the music block in October 2023, the DfE authorised emergency mitigation work to be carried out. This consisted of installing Acrow props to the ceiling and ensuring the whole floor was out of bounds, and was completed during December 2023. Remediation work to remove the RAAC and replace it with a suitable alternative began over the summer of 2024 following a full tender process overseen by the DfE, and this work will be completed by the end of November 2024.

Stour Valley Community School had to replace some underground pipework which was completed during the autumn term of 2023.

In November 2023 the suspended gym ceiling at Stour Valley Community School was damaged due to water ingress through roof tiles following exceptionally heavy and prolonged rain in the area over the summer and early autumn.

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

d. Investment policy

The Investment policy has been approved by the Resources Committee. Surplus funds may only be invested in cash deposits with the leading High Street banks for periods which deliver the best financial returns to the Academy Trust while ensuring that the Trust has access to sufficient liquidity to meet all financial obligations when due.

Fundraising

The Trust only undertakes fundraising through non-uniform days and other small events such as cake sales and Summer and Christmas Fetes which are organised internally or by the Parent Teachers and Friends Association. These events raise vital additional funds for the academy schools within the Trust. The Trust does not use any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The Trust understands its responsibilities to protect the public, including vulnerable people, from reasonably intrusive or persistent approaches and undue pressure to donate. All fundraising is undertaken in a fun and friendly environment.

Plans for future periods

As stated above under Going Concern, the Trust has received DfE approval to merge with Anglian Learning on 1 March 2025. A detailed project plan will ensure that the transfer to Anglian Learning will take place effectively and without interrupting the teaching and learning or equilibrium in our schools. After the 1 March 2025 transfer appropriate steps will be taken to produce the final accounts and dissolve Stour Valley Educational Trust.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

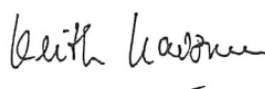
The Academy Trust does not hold any funds as Custodian Trustee.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 11 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
K Haisman
Chair of Trustees

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited 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.

Trustees also acknowledge that the estate encompassed by both Clare Community Primary school and Stour Valley Community school is both an asset and a mechanism to delivery outcomes for students. As such we manage this estate strategically and effectively and maintain it in a safe working condition. This includes complying with statutory duties to ensure the health and safety of building occupants. We achieve this by delegating the day-to-day responsibilities to the Senior Site Manager, CEO and CFO who use information within the Condition Data Collection report in addition to timed regular scheduled statutory checks carried out by qualified and responsible external agencies, and which are fully recorded. Any issue raised in any external inspection reports are actioned by the Senior Site Manager to effect a satisfactory resolution. Site reports are submitted to all LGB and Trust Board meetings and discussed and minuted as part of the meeting. Each term the LGB takes a walk of their estate with the Senior Site Manager to check on any potential issues. These are formally noted on our maintenance review document and actioned accordingly.

The board of Trustees has arranged a meeting to review the use of Trust Reserves with a specific aim of setting out a rolling plan of programmed work to improve site facilities.

The Trust has benefitted from Condition Improvement Fund work at Stour Valley Community school having had new boilers and roofing work carried out.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report. The board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C G Hawkins	4	4
K Haisman, Chair	3	4
P K Luxon	4	4
R A Kelly	4	4
S Goldsmith, Vice Chair	1	2
R Goodchild	3	4
H Marsh	2	2

The composition of the Board of Trustees during the 2022-23 period included sub-committees of a Resources Committee, dealing specifically with MAT finance, human resources and premises issues, an Audit Committee, dealing with oversight of regularity and control, a Pay committee which dealt solely with pay progression and salary percentage increases, and a Local Governing Body for each individual school.

Conflicts of Interest

An electronic register of interests of trustees and governors is maintained by the Trust Business Manager and is available to view on Governorhub. Trustees and governors are required to update/confirm their interests at the beginning of each academic year. Each Trust Board meeting, Local Governing Body meeting and Resources Committee meeting begins with a requirement for members to declare any interest or conflict with any item on the meeting agenda.

The Trustees reflected on issues faced during the year using a variety of means, including:

- The framework for Trustees under the Academies Financial Handbook which outlines their responsibilities
- Use of Governor Hub to plan, implement and disseminate information to all Trustees
- Training for trustees and heads – using both internal and external providers
- Review of the Trust's business plan
- Updating of the risk register regularly

In addition to the ongoing reviews as mentioned above Trustees also considered:

- Vision, ethos and strategy
- Governance structures
- Values and Behaviours
- Trustee Board effectiveness and skills
- Engagement
- Effective accountability of the executive leadership
- Impact on outcomes for pupils

In order to assess and review these areas, Trustee meetings through year were provided with a wide variety of source information including data and improvement reports for each individual school which identify strengths and weaknesses at local levels. Financial management reports taken directly from the management information system, FMS, ensured up to date information was received in a timely manner at each meeting, and these reports were posted on a monthly basis onto Governor Hub so that Trustees – including the Chair of Trustees and the Chair of the Trust Resources Committee – could review them in between meetings. Internal audit reports, risk assessments and analysis data from external sources were all used to aid the Trustees in assessing

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

the effectiveness of their governance and progress of the Trust. The Trustees appointed School Business Services to carry out two Internal Audit reviews during the financial year, one in February and the other in May.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree local budgets, monitor and approve financial and operational standards.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Goldsmith, Chair	3	3
C G Hawkins	3	3
R A Kelly	3	3
H Marsh	3	3
P K Luxon	2	3
R Goodchild	2	3

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide internal scrutiny to ensure that financial controls and risk management procedures are robust and effective.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C G Hawkins	3	3
S Goldsmith	3	3
R A Kelly	3	3
P K Luxon	2	3
H Marsh	3	3
R Goodchild	2	3

The Pay Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree pay progression and salary incremental increases.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Goodchild, Chair	2	2
S Goldsmith	1	2
K Haisman	2	2
R A Kelly	2	2
H Marsh	1	1

The Trust recognises the importance of strong governance and regularly reviews all tiers of governance through meetings with the chairs of the local governing bodies. In line with national interpretation of the accountability framework, work has been undertaken to construct a robust local governing body within each academy school which links directly to the Trust Board and via its sub-committees. Full Terms of Reference for all tiers of governance have been introduced. This structure also includes, since 2019, the introduction of an Audit Committee, sitting within the Resources Committee, in compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Chair of Trustees currently engages in the national governance arena and his access to current thinking

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

through the Confederation of School Trusts and the NGA has influenced the strategic governance and accountability decisions within the Trust.

The Trust Board membership encompasses significant experience of working in governance in both the education and business environment and has been selected with a range of specific skills in mind, covering finance, audit & accountancy, business management, building surveyance and human resources.

The Academies Accounts Direction requires Trusts, where the Board has met less than six times during the year, to include a statement on the maintenance of effective oversight. All Trustees receive monthly summary and full financial reports for each school comprising:

Current Budget,
Actuals to Date,
Commitments,
Total Actuals + Commitments
Income or Expenditure Remaining to Meet Budget
Forecast Year End Actual Position
% Received or Spent to Date
Expected % Year to Date
Comments

The Chair of Trustees and the Chair of the Resources Committee review the reports monthly with the Trust Business Manager and agree any actions necessary.

The Risk Assessments are reviewed in each school by the CEO who reports changes to Trustees on an exception basis.

The focus for Trust Board development in the next academic year is on:

- Continued communication with and training of Trustees and LGBs to ensure that all tiers of governance carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively and efficiently. The recently launched range of training programmes from the Confederation of School Trusts may prove beneficial.
- Encouraging Trustees and Governors to extend their networks to other trusts and sector bodies

Governance Reviews

Trustees last undertook a review of effectiveness of governance in the Trust Board and both Local Governing Bodies in the Spring Term 2023 . In addition, all trustees and governors completed a skills audit. The proformas used were as recommended by the National Governance Association.

Trust Board effectiveness: there were 2 key findings:

- i) While the Trust has a clear vision and long-term strategy, it was considered that a greater contribution from the academies and consequent buy-in from staff could be achieved. Training and communication events were held for all staff during the year and academies will have a wider representation at future strategy awaydays.
- ii) The review challenged whether the academies receive benefit from collaboration with other local schools and employers.

Each Local Governing Body now has a Trustee as a guest at their meetings to ensure good two-way communication.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- long term contracts being regularly reviewed and compared against other providers, in order to achieve the best price without compromising quality;
- using economies of scale available as a Multi-Academy Trust with purchases of print, broadband and IT equipment, for example;
- undertaking a review of external services we are currently purchasing to look at opportunities to secure better, more cost effective provision e.g. payroll and contract management.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ School Business Services as internal auditor.

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from School Business Services (SBS). This option has been chosen because SBS has a strong track record and breadth of service provision. They also have a positive expertise in these areas and has been working closely with the Academy Trust for over 12 years.

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

Review 1 – 21 February 2024

1. **Payroll:** Monthly payroll must be appropriately authorised and information held in HR files and within payroll software should be kept up to date. Scrutiny was achieved by:
 - a. Selecting 5 employees from the payroll and check salary details back to personnel records to confirm that the amount paid is correct
 - b. Checking Salary Letters are held on file and are up to date
 - c. Fining sample of employee amendments in current year and check these have been correctly authorised
 - d. Checking Payroll deductions are authorised appropriately (standard and non-standard)
 - e. Reviewing the final payroll print for 1 month to ensure it has been appropriately authorised.
2. **Financial Procedures:** Financial procedures should be documented including segregation of duties and tendering policies. Scrutiny was achieved by checking:
 - a. Financial procedures are documented and adhered to
 - b. There is documented segregation of duties in place
 - c. There are documented processes for continuity of processing in place
 - d. There are documented tendering policies in place
3. **Accounting System:** The accounting system should be operated effectively and securely. Scrutiny confirmed that:
 - a. The Trust is operating the accounting system effectively and securely
4. **Banking Procedures:** There is adequate control over bank accounts and balances including petty cash, charge cards and the use of cheque books. Scrutiny was achieved by checking:
 - a. There is adequate control over bank accounts and balances
 - b. Petty Cash
 - c. Cheque books

Review 2 – 22 May 2024

1. **Governance:** There should be clear and effective documented procedures and delegated responsibilities for governors and all relevant staff. Scrutiny was achieved by:
 - a. Reviewing the Trust's schedule of delegation in conjunction with the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Body, relevant Sub-Committees and the School's Finance Manual. Confirm that the School has clearly documented financial procedures and has effectively delegated financial responsibilities
 - b. Reviewing minutes from the last meeting of the Governing Body and/or Finance Committee to confirm that adequate and accurate financial information is reported to Governors and that the scheme of delegation is operating effectively, i.e., evidence of authorisation of virements and expenditure
 - c. Reviewing minutes for evidence of transparency and effective challenge in the decision-making process

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- d. Confirming Trust has approved relevant documents as per the Academy Trust Handbook, including a competitive tendering policy and annual VFM statement
2. **New Governors Induction Pack:** New governors should be provided with an induction pack containing important information which includes details of their responsibilities. Scrutiny confirmed:
- a. New members of the governing body are adequately inducted
3. **Register of Pecuniary Interests and Related Party Transactions:** A register of pecuniary interests must include all governors and related party transactions are monitored. Scrutiny confirmed that:
- a. The Trust as an up-to-date register of pecuniary interests
- b. Related Party transactions are monitored and appropriate reporting and approval for related party transactions are sought from the ESFA where appropriate
4. **Self-Evaluation of Financial Competencies:** The evaluation of the financial competencies of governors and key staff with financial responsibility should be in place and kept up-to-date. Scrutiny found:
- a. The Trust has implemented a procedure for the evaluation of the financial competencies of governors and key staff with financial responsibility
5. **Risk Register:** A Risk Register must be in place and reviewed regularly. There should be formal policies in place to mitigate the risks identified. Scrutiny checked:
- a. That the Trust has a sufficient risk register in place
- b. The board itself must review the risk register at least annually
- c. That Risk is monitored effectively via the Risk Register
6. **Assets:** Assets should be adequately recorded and a loan register kept up-to-date for any loaded assets. Scrutiny checked:
- a. The Trust's assets are adequately recorded
- b. The Trust's has adequately recorded any loaned assets
Comments/Findings Recommendations

On a bi-annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Internal Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of the internal auditor's work.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

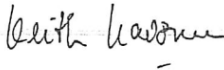
As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial benchmarking processes and the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Resources Committee and a plan is in place 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.

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



.....
K Haisman
Chair of Trustees
Date: 11 December 2024



.....
R A Kelly
Accounting Officer

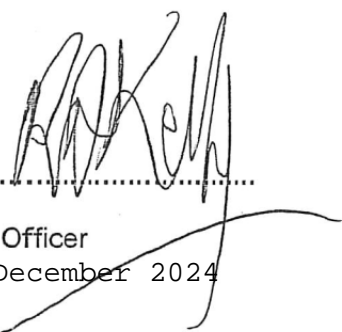
STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



.....
R A Kelly
Accounting Officer
Date: 11 December 2024

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

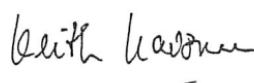
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

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



.....
K Haisman
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 11 December 2024

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of matter - financial statements prepared on a basis other than going concern

We draw attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which explains that the Trustees have resolved that all operations, assets and liabilities of Stour Valley Educational Trust will transfer out of the company into another academy trust. At that point, the company will become dormant, and therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern as described in Note 1.2.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Due to the field in which the Company operates, we identified the areas most likely to have a direct material impact on the financial statements as compliance with tax legislation, accounting standards and requirements, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law. In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations which whilst not having a direct impact on the financial statements, are fundamental to the Company's ability to operate, including Academy Trust Handbook 2023, funding agreements, safeguarding requirements, health and safety; employment law, data protection and compliance with various other regulations relevant to the conduct of the Company's operations.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, included the following:

- Enquiries with management, the accounting officer and the trustees about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, accidents in the workplace, safeguarding breaches, data breaches, potential litigation or claims and fraud;
- Considering the conclusion of our assurance report on regularity to the Company and the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Reviewing the Accounting Officers Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance;
- Review the findings of the Company's internal scrutiny;
- Reviewing legal and professional fees to confirm matters where the Company engaged lawyers during the year;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

- Reviewing board and finance committee minutes and any relevant correspondence with external authorities, including regulators;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates, particularly around the actuarial assumptions used to estimate the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation; and
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

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

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

Use of our report

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

Giles Kerkham DChA FCA (senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Larking Gowen LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Ipswich

Date: 17 December 2024

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated December 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY
(CONTINUED)**

Approach

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

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

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

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

In planning and conducting our work we had due regard to professional guidance, including the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion, includes, but is not limited to:

- Enquiry of senior management and the Academy's Governors
- Inspection and review of the accounting records, meeting minutes, prior year regularity report, internal control procedures, management representations and declarations of interest
- Observation and re-performance of the financial controls
- Review of the results of the Academy's process of independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks

Conclusion

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

Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Ipswich

Date: 17/12/2024

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	146	3,245	38,573	41,964	91,905
Other trading activities		15,132	47,320	-	62,452	94,614
Net interest on LGPS	6	-	30,000	-	30,000	9,000
Charitable activities		87,029	5,117,900	-	5,204,929	4,742,701
Other income		-	-	89,842	89,842	-
Total income		102,307	5,198,465	128,415	5,429,187	4,938,220
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		175,316	5,247,580	257,758	5,680,654	5,084,002
Total expenditure		175,316	5,247,580	257,758	5,680,654	5,084,002
Net expenditure		(73,009)	(49,115)	(129,343)	(251,467)	(145,782)
Transfers between funds	20	-	(56,336)	56,336	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(73,009)	(105,451)	(73,007)	(251,467)	(145,782)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	(45,000)	-	(45,000)	35,000
Net movement in funds		(73,009)	(150,451)	(73,007)	(296,467)	(110,782)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	159,350	287,734	7,971,140	8,418,224	8,529,006
Net movement in funds	(73,009)	(150,451)	(73,007)	(296,467)	(110,782)
Total funds carried forward	86,341	137,283	7,898,133	8,121,757	8,418,224

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 34 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07226557

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	15	-	450
Tangible assets	16	7,895,717	7,964,208
		<u>7,895,717</u>	<u>7,964,658</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	109,737	83,967
Cash at bank and in hand		482,451	659,511
		<u>592,188</u>	<u>743,478</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(354,645)	(275,853)
Net current assets		<u>237,543</u>	<u>467,625</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,133,260</u>	<u>8,432,283</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(11,503)	(14,059)
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>8,121,757</u>	<u>8,418,224</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>8,121,757</u></u>	<u><u>8,418,224</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	20	7,898,133	7,971,140
Restricted income funds	20	137,283	287,734
Total restricted funds	20	<u>8,035,416</u>	<u>8,258,874</u>
Unrestricted income funds	20	<u>86,341</u>	<u>159,350</u>
Total funds		<u><u>8,121,757</u></u>	<u><u>8,418,224</u></u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07226557

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

The financial statements on pages 29 to 68 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Keith Haisman

.....
K Haisman

(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 11 December 2024

The notes on pages 34 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	(210,188)	(35,762)
Cash flows from investing activities	24	35,684	4,261
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(2,556)	(2,556)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(177,060)	(34,057)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		659,511	693,568
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	482,451	659,511

The notes on pages 34 to 68 form part of these financial statements

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England, registration number 07226557. The registered office is Cavendish Road, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8PJ.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£) and rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

As detailed in the Trustees' report, the Trustees have resolved that Stour Valley Educational Trust will transfer to another academy trust. The transfer is proceeding and transfer is expected to complete during the 2024/2025 academic year. At the point of transfer, all operations, assets and liabilities will transfer out of the company, which will become dormant. The Trustees intend then to dissolve the company once final administrative matters have been dealt with. Therefore, these financial statements are prepared on a basis other than going concern. No material adjustments have been made to accounting policies or figures in the accounts as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any provision for the future costs of winding-up the Trust, except to the extent that such costs were committed at the balance sheet date.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **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 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.

1.4 Expenditure

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

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Taxation

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

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

1.7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

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

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Computer software	- 3 years
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STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Leasehold buildings	- 50 years straight line
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	- 3-10 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 25 years 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.

1.9 Debtors

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

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.11 Liabilities

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

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Provisions

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

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

1.13 Operating leases

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

1.14 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy Trust'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.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. 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 Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

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

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

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

If the present value of the LGPS defined benefit obligation at the reporting date is less than the fair value of plan assets, the plan has a surplus. A defined benefit plan surplus is recognised as an asset to the extent that the Academy Trust is able to recover the surplus either through reduced future contributions or through refunds from the plan.

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

1.16 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset/liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/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 asset/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 asset/liability.

An impairment review was conducted on the carrying value of buildings identified as at Stour Valley Community School as containing RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete), concluding that any impairment charge would be immaterial to tangible fixed assets, fixed asset funds and the accounts as a whole. Given uncertainty over the precise estimate, no charge has been posted in the accounts. The assessment included comparison of figures in the fixed asset register with a DfE desktop valuation of the school premises carried out as at April 2023, alongside contracted reinstatement costs.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Proceeds from land disposal	-	-	-	-
Donations	146	3,245	-	3,391
Capital grants	-	-	38,573	38,573
Subtotal	146	3,245	38,573	41,964

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Donations				
Proceeds from land disposal	-	-	21,324	21,324
Donations	1,491	999	3,665	6,155
Capital grants	-	-	64,426	64,426
Subtotal	1,491	999	68,091	70,581

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4. Funding for the academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,371,502	4,371,502
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	29,804	29,804
Pupil Premium	-	179,053	179,053
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	325,625	325,625
	-	4,905,984	4,905,984
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	161,204	161,204
	-	161,204	161,204
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	87,029	16,524	103,553
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	34,188	34,188
	-	34,188	34,188
	87,029	5,117,900	5,204,929

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4. Funding for the academy's educational operations (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,040,427	4,040,427
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	25,643	25,643
Pupil Premium	-	171,407	171,407
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	210,085	210,085
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	4,447,562	4,447,562
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	136,714	136,714
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	136,714	136,714
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	85,549	16,010	101,559
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	56,866	56,866
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	56,866	56,866
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,549	4,657,152	4,742,701
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Hire of facilities	6,763	6,353	13,116
Department income	-	11,003	11,003
Solar PV income	4,791	-	4,791
Insurance income	-	-	-
Other income	3,578	26,060	29,638
General income	-	3,904	3,904
	<u>15,132</u>	<u>47,320</u>	<u>62,452</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Hire of facilities	6,763	5,241	12,004
Department income	-	14,052	14,052
Solar PV income	4,681	-	4,681
Production income	-	5,207	5,207
Other income	9,528	43,233	52,761
General income	-	5,909	5,909
	<u>20,972</u>	<u>73,642</u>	<u>94,614</u>

6. Investment income

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Pension income	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6. Investment income (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Pension income	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>

7. Other income

	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Proceeds of disposal of land	<u>89,842</u>	<u>89,842</u>

During the year, the Trust completed on the sale of a parcel of land. The transaction was approved by the DfE in June 2021. The Trust received a total of £166,000 of which £89,842 was received this year and is included in other income. Amounts of £76,158 were recognised in previous years, which were included in donations as no legal obligation was in place.

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Academy Trust's educational operations				
Direct costs	3,509,333	-	445,506	3,954,839
Allocated support costs	453,739	387,468	884,608	1,725,815
	<u>3,963,072</u>	<u>387,468</u>	<u>1,330,114</u>	<u>5,680,654</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8. Expenditure (continued)

	<i>Staff Costs</i> 2023 £	<i>Premises</i> 2023 £	<i>Other</i> 2023 £	<i>Total</i> 2023 £
Academy Trust's educational operations				
Direct costs	3,208,702	-	553,472	3,762,174
Allocated support costs	411,083	19,080	891,665	1,321,828
	<u>3,619,785</u>	<u>19,080</u>	<u>1,445,137</u>	<u>5,084,002</u>

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational operations	<u>3,954,839</u>	<u>1,725,815</u>	<u>5,680,654</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational operations	<u>3,762,174</u>	<u>1,321,828</u>	<u>5,084,002</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	464,036	464,036
Depreciation and amortisation	232,832	232,832
Premises costs	307,228	307,228
Other support costs	681,607	681,607
Disposal of land	18,682	18,682
Governance costs	21,430	21,430
	<u>1,725,815</u>	<u>1,725,815</u>

Governance costs comprise audit and accountancy fees incurred in the year.

	<i>Activities 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	411,083	411,083
Depreciation and amortisation	210,268	210,268
Premises costs	191,172	191,172
Other support costs	494,901	494,901
Governance costs	14,404	14,404
	<u>1,321,828</u>	<u>1,321,828</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10. Net expenditure

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	36,785	27,112
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	232,382	209,368
Amortisation of intangible assets	450	900
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	16,150	14,415
- other services	8,575	8,090
	=====	=====

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,921,891	2,690,919
Social security costs	320,860	285,453
Pension costs	739,554	687,413
	<u>3,982,305</u>	<u>3,663,785</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	46	44
Administration and support	53	51
Management	9	8
	<u>108</u>	<u>103</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	40	39
Administration and support	34	31
Management	9	8
	<u>83</u>	<u>78</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

11. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	6	3

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 2. 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 £755,856 (2023 - £620,599).

12. Central services

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

- Executive leadership
- Financial administration services (Hub finance support, outsourced payroll service)
- HR services (employee contract administration, wellbeing and employee relations including legal and professional services)
- Centralised ICT support
- Centralised GDPR support
- Centralised Site Management and Caretaking

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The proportion of time spent at each school has been calculated and staffing costs, including all on-costs, have been charged accordingly.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stour Valley Community School	237,065	225,305
Clare Community Primary School	60,225	56,379
Total	297,290	281,684

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13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2024	2023
		£	£
R A Kelly	Remuneration	90,000 -	85,000 -
		95,000	90,000
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 -	20,000 -
		25,000	25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2024, £51.35 expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to one Trustee (2023 - £NIL).

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15. Intangible assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	4,900
At 31 August 2024	<u>4,900</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2023	4,450
Charge for the year	450
At 31 August 2024	<u>4,900</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>
<i>At 31 August 2023</i>	<u><u>450</u></u>

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

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures & equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2023	9,241,844	320,855	670,992	10,233,691
Additions	-	28,313	154,260	182,573
Disposals	(22,385)	-	(3,973)	(26,358)
At 31 August 2024	<u>9,219,459</u>	<u>349,168</u>	<u>821,279</u>	<u>10,389,906</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	1,450,750	251,720	567,013	2,269,483
Charge for the year	132,430	35,927	64,025	232,382
On disposals	(3,703)	-	(3,973)	(7,676)
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,579,477</u>	<u>287,647</u>	<u>627,065</u>	<u>2,494,189</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	<u>7,639,982</u>	<u>61,521</u>	<u>194,214</u>	<u>7,895,717</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,791,094</u>	<u>69,135</u>	<u>103,979</u>	<u>7,964,208</u>

17. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	46,355	24,224
Prepayments and accrued income	63,382	59,743
	<u>109,737</u>	<u>83,967</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	2,556	2,556
Trade creditors	113,123	45,603
Other taxation and social security	159,840	142,534
Accruals and deferred income	79,126	85,160
	354,645	275,853
	354,645	275,853
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	32,970	52,280
Resources deferred during the year	35,168	32,970
Amounts released from previous periods	(32,970)	(52,280)
	35,168	32,970
	35,168	32,970

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance in regard to the Universal Infant Free School Meals funding which was paid during the financial year, but related to grant allocations for the 2024/25 financial year and trip income received in advance for trips occurring in 2024/2025.

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	11,503	14,059
	11,503	14,059

A Salix loan of £20,448 is being repaid in equal installments over eight years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2030. The year end balance was £14,059.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	159,350	102,307	(175,316)	-	-	86,341
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	202,392	4,371,502	(4,502,604)	(56,336)	-	14,954
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	16,973	534,482	(460,288)	-	-	91,167
Other grants	10,711	161,204	(161,367)	-	-	10,548
Covid-19 support	15,205	34,188	(46,011)	-	-	3,382
Other amounts	42,453	67,089	(92,310)	-	-	17,232
Pension reserve	-	30,000	15,000	-	(45,000)	-
	287,734	5,198,465	(5,247,580)	(56,336)	(45,000)	137,283
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations	7,731	89,842	(4,355)	(92,357)	-	861
Dfe/ESFA Capital Grants	6,513	-	(3,663)	-	-	2,850
GAG funded assets	10,520	-	(5,917)	-	-	4,603
Assets purchased from grants	143,759	-	(80,860)	182,573	-	245,472
Gifted assets on conversion	7,791,094	-	(151,113)	-	-	7,639,981
Assets purchased from unrestricted funds	9,979	-	(5,613)	-	-	4,366
DFC capital grants	1,544	38,573	(6,237)	(33,880)	-	-

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20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
	7,971,140	128,415	(257,758)	56,336	-	7,898,133
Total Restricted funds	8,258,874	5,326,880	(5,505,338)	-	(45,000)	8,035,416
Total funds	8,418,224	5,429,187	(5,680,654)	-	(45,000)	8,121,757

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) is used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust.

Other ESFA grants are various specific grants provided to the Academy Trust from the ESFA.

Other restricted grants includes SEN funding.

Covid-19 Support grants are for Covid-19 Catch-up premiums.

A transfer of £56,336 (2023 - £85,592) was made from GAG (2023 - GAG) to restricted fixed asset funds in respect of assets purchased.

The pension reserve total loss of £45k includes derecognition of £220k surplus as there is no indication that it will be recovered in the future.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	205,999	108,012	(154,661)	-	-	159,350
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	226,534	4,040,426	(3,978,976)	(85,592)	-	202,392
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	4,007	407,135	(394,169)	-	-	16,973
Other grants	7,719	136,714	(133,722)	-	-	10,711
Covid-19 support	-	56,866	(41,661)	-	-	15,205
Other amounts	10,945	99,652	(68,144)	-	-	42,453
Pension reserve	-	-	(35,000)	-	35,000	-
	<u>249,205</u>	<u>4,740,793</u>	<u>(4,651,672)</u>	<u>(85,592)</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>287,734</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations	8,434	24,989	(4,368)	(21,324)	-	7,731
Dfe/ESFA Capital Grants	13,511	-	(6,998)	-	-	6,513
GAG funded assets	21,824	-	(11,304)	-	-	10,520
Assets purchased from grants	85,807	-	(44,859)	102,811	-	143,759
Gifted assets on conversion	7,923,525	-	(132,431)	-	-	7,791,094
Assets purchased from unrestricted funds	20,701	-	(10,722)	-	-	9,979
DFC capital grants	-	64,426	(66,987)	4,105	-	1,544

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

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	8,073,802	89,415	(277,669)	85,592	-	7,971,140
Total Restricted funds	8,323,007	4,830,208	(4,929,341)	-	35,000	8,258,874
Total funds	8,529,006	4,938,220	(5,084,002)	-	35,000	8,418,224

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stour Valley Community School	139,675	323,844
Clare Community Primary School	83,949	123,240
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	223,624	447,084
Restricted fixed asset fund	7,898,133	7,971,140
Total	8,121,757	8,418,224

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £
Stour Valley Community School	2,831,670	198,947	332,284	953,765	4,316,666
Clare Community Primary School	794,906	65,768	97,411	173,071	1,131,156
Academy Trust	3,626,576	264,715	429,695	1,126,836	5,447,822

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

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</i>	<i>Other support staff costs £</i>	<i>Educational supplies £</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Stour Valley Community School	2,684,336	228,037	396,734	499,268	3,808,375
Clare Community Primary School	671,600	79,812	136,610	177,337	1,065,359
Academy Trust	3,355,936	307,849	533,344	676,605	4,873,734

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21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,895,717	7,895,717
Current assets	100,741	489,031	2,416	592,188
Creditors due within one year	(14,400)	(340,245)	-	(354,645)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(11,503)	-	(11,503)
Total	86,341	137,283	7,898,133	8,121,757

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,964,208	7,964,208
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	450	450
Current assets	163,750	573,246	6,482	743,478
Creditors due within one year	9,659	(285,512)	-	(275,853)
Creditors due in more than one year	(14,059)	-	-	(14,059)
Total	159,350	287,734	7,971,140	8,418,224

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

22. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net expenditure for the period (as per statement of financial activities)	(251,467)	(145,782)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	450	900
Depreciation	232,382	209,368
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(128,415)	(85,750)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(15,000)	44,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(30,000)	(9,000)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(25,770)	14,645
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	78,792	(42,819)
Gain on disposal	(71,160)	(21,324)
Net cash used in operating activities	(210,188)	(35,762)

23. Cash flows from financing activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Repayments of loan	(2,556)	(2,556)
Net cash used in financing activities	(2,556)	(2,556)

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Purchase of fixed assets	(182,573)	(102,813)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	89,842	21,324
Capital grants from DfE Group	128,415	85,750
Net cash provided by investing activities	35,684	4,261

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	482,451	659,511
Total cash and cash equivalents	482,451	659,511

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	659,511	(177,060)	482,451
Debt due within 1 year	(2,556)	-	(2,556)
Debt due after 1 year	(14,059)	2,556	(11,503)
	642,896	(174,504)	468,392

27. Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Repairs, maintenance or enhancements to leasehold property	223,100	-
	223,100	-

The above commitment is for contracted work at Stour Valley Community School in relation to the music block RAAC repair work. The work is committed to at year end and expected to complete in the financial year to 31 August 2025. There is an agreement from DfE for £223,100 of funding for the work.

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28. Pension commitments

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

- Employer contribution rates currently 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 £226,000 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.

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £580,700 (2023 - £497,413).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result>.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £207,000 (2023 - £190,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £159,000 (2023 - £146,000) and employees' contributions totalled £48,000 (2023 - £44,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23 per cent for employers and variable per cent for employees.

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

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.65	2.95

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

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	Years	<i>Years</i>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.0	<i>20.1</i>
Females	24.1	<i>24.2</i>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.6	<i>21.7</i>
Females	26.1	<i>26.1</i>

Sensitivity analysis

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	(53)	<i>(49)</i>
Discount rate -0.1%	53	<i>49</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	90	<i>78</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(90)	<i>(78)</i>
CPI rate +0.1%	54	<i>48</i>
CPI rate -0.1%	(54)	<i>(48)</i>

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2024 £	At 31 August 2023 £
Equities	1,971,000	1,661,000
Debt instruments	819,000	630,000
Property	212,000	201,000
Cash and other liquid assets	30,000	25,000
Total market value of assets	3,032,000	2,517,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £30,000 (2023 - £9,000).

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	(144,000)	(190,000)
Interest income	136,000	99,000
Interest cost	(106,000)	(90,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(114,000)	(181,000)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September, before asset ceiling adjustment	1,953,000	2,009,000
Current service cost	144,000	190,000
Interest cost	106,000	90,000
Employee contributions	48,000	44,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	16,000	(357,000)
Benefits paid	(19,000)	(23,000)
Asset ceiling adjustment	784,000	564,000
At 31 August, after asset ceiling adjustment	3,032,000	2,517,000

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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28. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September	2,517,000	2,254,000
Interest income	136,000	99,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	191,000	(3,000)
Employer contributions	159,000	146,000
Employee contributions	48,000	44,000
Benefits paid	(19,000)	(23,000)
At 31 August	3,032,000	2,517,000

The actuarial valuation on the Plan for accounting purposes showed a net surplus of £784,000 as at 31 August 2024. FRS 102 allows a plan surplus to be recognised as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that an entity is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

29. Operating lease commitments

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	32,076	36,785
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	82,589	99,415
Later than 5 years	14,250	28,500
	128,915	164,700

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the statement of financial activities:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	36,785	27,112

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30. Members' liability

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

31. Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expense claim already described in note 13.