

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Company Registration Number 07472190 (England & Wales)**

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st August 2024

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st August 2024**

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Reference and Administrative Details

Member	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
Nicholas Roe-Ely	3 rd October 2017	11 th November 2023
David Hazell	3 rd October 2018	
Catherine Jones	20 th March 2019	
Neil Williams	7 th December 2021	
David Putwain	7 th December 2021	

Trustee	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
John Cook	17 th March 2015	
Phil Adams	4 th October 2016	
Michael Kilbride	1 st April 2018	
Lyn Hazell	19 th March 2019	
Pete Murphy	7 th December 2021	
Jill Murphy	7 th December 2021	26 th June 2024
Martin Thomas	30 th August 2024	

Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive	Michael Kilbride
Chief Financial Officer	Mark Rimmer

Company Name: BePART Educational Trust

Principal Office: BePART Educational Trust
Park Road West
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH43 8SQ

Company Registration Number: 07472190 (England & Wales)

Independent Auditors: Wbg (Audit) Limited
168 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
Wirral
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

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Reference and Administrative Details continued

Solicitors:

Cook Lawyers Ltd
Barons Court
Manchester Road
Manchester
SK9 1BQ

Hill Dickinson
No 1 St Paul's Square
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9SJ

National Education Union
Settlements Agreement Team
2nd Floor Apex Business Centre
1 Watervole Way
Doncaster
DN4 5JP

Slater & Gordon Lawyers
Dempster Building
Atlantic Way
Brunswick Business Park
Liverpool
L3 4UU

Horsefield Menzies Ltd
83 Baker Street
London
W1U 6AG

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024

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

The trust operates Birkenhead Park School, an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in the Wirral. It has a pupil allocation number of 750 and had a roll of 749 in the school census in January 2024. The school cohort has grown in the last five years as Y7 entries have increased and small upper years have left the school.

On 1st August 2017, Birkenhead Sixth Form College joined the trust. The College provides high quality post-16 education for a wide cohort of students. For the academic year 2023/24 the College enrolled 1485 sixth form students.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of BePART Educational Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Since 21st February 2019, the charitable company is known as BePART Educational Trust. Previously it was known as Wirral Academy Trust and before that University Academy of Birkenhead (UAB).

UAB was established on 1st January 2011 to replace Park High School and Rock Ferry High School, both of which ceased to exist in December 2010. On 17th March 2015, Birkenhead Sixth Form College became the sole sponsor of the academy, replacing the principal sponsor, University of Chester Academies Trust (UCAT). At this date, the company was renamed Wirral Academy Trust and the amalgamated school, known as University Academy Birkenhead, was renamed Birkenhead Park School. The company was renamed on the 21st February 2019 from Wirral Academy Trust to BePART Educational Trust.

The principal activity of the charitable company is to provide education for young people.

Details of the trustees and directors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administration Details on page 1 and 2.

Trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the company law and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The Companies Act 2006 s236 requires disclosure concerning qualifying third-party indemnity provisions which there are none.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Members of the academy trust shall comprise signatories to the Memorandum. The minimum number of Members shall not be less than 3.

Trustees of the academy trust shall comprise up to 7 trustees appointed by the members, up to 2 academy trustees and, if no local governing body is established, a minimum of 2 parent trustees. The total number of trustees including the Chief Executive Officer and employees of the academy trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of trustees. The minimum number of trustees shall not be less than 3 but shall not be subject to any maximum.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Trustees of the academy trust may also appoint co-opted trustees. A 'co-opted trustee' means a person who is appointed to be a trustee by being co-opted by trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The trustees may not co-opt an employee of the academy trust as a co-opted trustee if thereby the number of trustees who are employees of the academy trust would exceed one third of the total number of trustees including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent, he or she is a trustee.

A local governing body sits within the member institutions. This body acts as an advisory body to the trustees. This body comprises of representatives from the community including two parent governors.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustees receive an introduction to their role and the BePART Educational Trust along with appropriate training sessions, which are arranged during the academic year. Information is provided for trustees on the role of the trustee and all trustees have been issued with the code of conduct for trustees.

Organisational Structure

The organisational structure with roles and responsibilities is set out in the Scheme of Delegation, which is approved by the trustees annually. The key responsibilities are as follows:

Key Responsibilities of BePART Educational Trust Directors:

- To establish and review the vision and direction of BePART Educational Trust.
- To have overall responsibility for formulating policy and ultimate decision making in relation to the establishment of the Trust and the future work of the Trust.
- To have overall responsibility for ensuring high quality provision within the Trust's academies.
- To approve improvement plans and targets for each institution.
- To have overall responsibility for the Trust's budget and financial accounting.
- To give final approval of member organisation budgets.
- To give final approval for all capital projects to be undertaken within academies.
- To approve the appointment, reappointment and dismissal of internal scrutiny auditors.
- To approve any service contracts in accordance with the Articles.
- To appoint and remove members of Local Governing Bodies.
- To approve and review all Trust umbrella policies and procedures required by law.
- To fulfil the requirements of external agencies e.g. DfE/ESFA.
- To approve the appointment of the Headteachers/Principals and Deputy Headteachers/Deputy Principals for member institutions.
- To oversee the HR strategy and policy.
- To approve the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Trust Board on an annual basis.
- To review the Scheme of Delegation on an annual basis and to make appropriate changes as required.
- To monitor the role of the Chief Executive.
- To approve the remuneration of the Chief Executive.
- To give final approval for the remuneration of the Headteachers/Principals.

Key Responsibilities of Chief Executive:

- To act as the Accounting Officer and have appropriate oversight of the Trust's financial affairs.
- To be accountable to the Board of Directors for the work of the Trust.
- To work with the Board of Directors to ensure that the vision and key objectives are fulfilled.
- To implement and monitor policies and procedures required by the Board.
- To implement and monitor reporting procedures on each sponsored institution and any other issues that are pertinent to the Board.
- To appoint the Headteachers/Principals and Deputy Headteachers/Deputy Principals for sponsored academies in conjunction with the Trust Board.
- To agree in conjunction with the Headteacher/Principal strategic and improvement plans for the institution for presentation to the Board of Directors.
- To work with the Headteacher/Principal in each organisation within the Trust to ensure high standards of performance are attained.
- To manage the performance of the Headteachers/Principals of the member institutions.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

- To have oversight of the quality improvement and financial monitoring processes.
- To represent the Trust with outside bodies.
- To approve staffing structures within the institutions and any variations that may be required in year.
- To approve appointments of senior staff in the member institutions.
- To approve the remuneration of senior staff in the member institutions, excluding Headteachers/Principals.
- To recommend the approval of Headteacher's/Principal's remuneration to the Board.
- To identify, propose and present potential development strategies for BePART Educational Trust to the Board of Directors.
- To monitor the quality of provision at the institution along with any central educational initiatives led by BePART Educational Trust.
- To have responsibility for developing and monitoring all central services provided by BePART Educational Trust.

Key Responsibilities of Chief Financial Officer:

- To act as the Trust's Accountant.
- To keep full and accurate accounting records.
- To ensure that the Trust has robust financial governance arrangements and complies with all funding agreements.
- To ensure that risk management procedures are implemented.
- To prepare and monitor budgets and ensure that annual accounts are presented, and all financial returns made in a timely manner.
- To ensure that the Board is fully apprised of all financial arrangements by producing accurate monthly financial management accounts for the Chair every month and for the Directors six times a year.
- To produce accurate and timely reports to the Board.
- To monitor the financial progress of the member institutions against their approved budget strategy.
- To submit financial statements, accounts return, internal scrutiny findings, school resource management self-assessment tool (SRMSAT), and budget forecast return outturn (BFRO) to ESFA in a timely manner.

Key Responsibilities of Headteacher / Principal of each Member Organisation:

- To implement the vision and policies of BePART Educational Trust effectively.
- To share the vision of the Trust and to implement strategies to ensure that the vision is fulfilled.
- To develop a Strategic Plan/Improvement Plan to ensure that strategic objectives are met.
- To work with staff in the institution to develop a culture of challenge, high expectations and standards.
- To implement a dynamic and flexible curriculum that meets the needs of the learners.
- To review, evaluate and monitor teaching learning and assessment and to ensure that improvement strategies are implemented, as required.
- To implement strategies that secures high attendance, excellent punctuality and high standards of behaviour at all times.
- To develop an excellent learning environment and promote the use of technology to support learning.
- To implement robust quality procedures.
- To plan the allocation of all financial and human resources to ensure value for money and to maximise the use of resources to support teaching and learning.
- To manage the institution efficiently and effectively.
- To oversee the admissions of students, maintain discipline, maintain high levels of attendance, oversee suspension and exclusions in line with policy.
- To analyse data/information relating to the progress of the institution and to provide detailed and accurate reports, as required.
- To work with the BePART Educational Trust to identify levels of support and potential for joint services.
- To develop an annual budget in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer and to operate within the agreed budget.
- To comply with all policies and legal requirements related to safeguarding and health and safety.
- To have overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation.
- To provide BePART Educational Trust Board with regular reports.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Key Responsibilities of Local Governing Body:

The Local Governing Body will act as an advisory board to BePART Educational Trust Board. The meetings of the Local Governing Body will take place four times a year. The Local Governing Body will make available minutes of their meetings to BePART Educational Trust Board. Papers will be issued one week in advance of meetings.

The Board of Directors will delegate to the Local Governing Body the following responsibilities for supporting the institution and its leadership and management team in improving the:

- Achievement of pupils.
- Quality of Teaching.
- Behaviour and Safety of students.

The Local Governing Body will specifically be expected:

- To promote and support the vision and direction of BePART Educational Trust.
- To promote the strategic objectives for the institution and its direction within the framework of the vision of BePART Educational Trust.
- To monitor the Improvement Plan for the institution.
- To monitor the standards and performance of the institution and all aspects of student support and welfare.
- To monitor teaching, learning and assessment within the institution to ensure that timely improvements are being made.
- To ensure that an appropriate curriculum is being offered that meets local needs and fits within BePART Educational Trust guidelines.
- To ensure implementation and closely monitor safeguarding and health and safety requirements.
- To formally review the Headteacher's decision to permanently exclude any pupil.
- To engage fully and openly with any inspection of the institution, supporting the Headteacher/Principal in providing the necessary background, local context and performance in line with objectives against targets.
- To make arrangements for the election/appointment of parent and staff governors.
- To approve and review all policies and procedures that are specific to the institution e.g. Health and Safety.
- To review, monitor, provide advice and constructively challenge, as appropriate.
- To ensure that Local Governing Body arrangements are conducted effectively.
- To be responsible to the Directors of BePART Educational Trust and to comply and act within the Terms of Reference.
- To appoint a Clerk to the Local Governing Body and implement clerking arrangements.
- To maintain and publish, through the Clerk, a register of Governors' and senior members of staff business interests and adhere to procedures for registering and managing conflicts of interest.
- To advise the Trust of any concerns about the running of the institution that cannot be resolved by the Local Governing Body and of any suspicions of fraud or irregularity.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The BePART Educational Trust trustees do not receive remuneration for their work as trustees as this is undertaken on a voluntary basis. However, they may claim travel expenses should they undertake trust business. The key senior personnel (Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer) were remunerated through their host employer (Birkenhead Sixth Form College) in 2023-24. Charges for their services to BePART Educational Trust are reclaimed via the management fee. The BePART Educational Trust Board of trustees determine the senior post holders within the school which includes the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Their salaries are determined using the recommended School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) Leadership Group Pay Range. Local circumstances are also taken into account.

Trade Union Facility Time

No employees spent paid time on trade union facilities during the year.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Details of related party transactions are given in Note 25.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Board values the opportunity of engaging with its employees. Management regularly provides information to employees through a range of formal and informal channels, including regular physical meetings and Teams briefings. All senior managers operate open door policies and additionally facilitate engagement via review and performance meetings.

The trust Senior Leadership Teams consult with employees and their representatives regularly so that the views of employees can be considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests, examples of consultations that have taken place recently include, changes to institution timetables, the structure of the working day, curriculum offer and management structures. There has also been significant consultation and discussion around matters relating to managing the very dynamic environment created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trust has supported the emotional and mental health of its employees through the use of a fully funded external counselling service, this has been well used over the last year and have proven its worth by supporting colleagues through arrange of difficult personal challenges. Whilst the Trust has to maintain the prescribed staffing levels demanded of formal curriculum delivery, there is always a willingness to explore all ways that staff can be supported to deal with their family and other life demands.

The Trust welcomes engagement with recognised unions and has formal recognitions policies at the school and the College. In addition, regular meetings are offered to local and regional representatives. The Trust is committed to fully implementing the national pay polices that separately apply to the school and the College and the terms and conditions that run alongside these.

The BePART Trust is a values-driven organisation that is committed to a Thoughtful approach that is opposed to any discrimination against a person with disabilities based on assumptions of their ability or otherwise. Where an employee who has, a disability is appointed to a post in an academy or a student is admitted, reasonable provision will be made for adjustments to the working conditions or environment where this is practicable. The Trust is proud of its socially diverse profile and of the awards it has received for the work done in this area.

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity of BePART Educational Trust is to support member institutions to provide high quality education for its pupils.

Mission Statement for BePART Educational Trust

'Raising aspirations and transforming lives'.

Objects and Aims

Overall Aims

- To enable students to experience an ambitious and creative learning environment and provide opportunities for every individual to reach their academic potential.
- To offer a broad, balanced and rich curriculum that enables core skills to be attained and provides the opportunity for students to take advantage of a range of opportunities and pathways.
- To support, challenge and nurture a lasting passion and curiosity for learning in each student.
- To be able to be an innovative educational organisation, which seeks to use the best, established practice to attain high standards of teaching and learning.
- To provide a secure and caring environment that will foster the development of socially responsible young people.
- To prepare students to proactively participate and compete at local, national and international levels

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

- To encourage engagement with families and the local community to enhance opportunities and learning outcomes for students.
- To provide leadership and foster continuous improvement in all the work of the BePART Educational Trust and the individual member institutions.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Key Objectives for BePART Educational Trust:

- To ensure that all our member institutions are high performing within a set timescale.
- To engage with learners to enable them to develop, progress to appropriate pathways and achieve their ambitions.
- To offer a dynamic and shared curriculum across the member institutions within the trust that will meet the needs of the learners.
- To provide standards for excellent pastoral provision, advice and guidance to support the learners in their academic studies in each institution.
- To develop excellent quality systems that will facilitate continuous improvement in all aspects of the work of the individual institutions.
- To disseminate good practice, encourage professional development and provide career opportunities for all staff working within the trust.
- To provide a range of central services to the organisations within the family to enable value for money to be attained and thus allowing money within the institutions to be channelled to improving teaching and learning.
- To develop the capacity of the trust to ensure financial viability and sustainability.

The key objectives are reviewed annually by the Board of Directors of the trust.

Public Benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

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

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance for the Year 2023-24

Key Performance Indicators

The Birkenhead Park School

The school operates in a very challenging environment as the profile below shows.

BPS context/profile

- 70% disadvantaged students eligible for Pupil Premium (3 times the national average)
- 25 Looked After children (highest in Wirral secondary schools)
- 32% of students with SEN

This profile shows the school to be in the top five in England in regards of its deprivation and SEND profile. The challenge of maintaining consistent education over the last two years have been substantial across the sector and it is acknowledged that this is even more so for schools such as Birkenhead Park School, operating with its deprived cohort.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic the school was part way into a five-year development plan, unfortunately the circumstances of covid have set that plan back and significant amounts of the gains made have been eroded.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

The school is now on the path to re-establishing that progress and the OFSTED inspection in November 2023 attested to this when they reported that good progress was being made on the school's journey of improvement and development, with particular positive reference made to the work of the Trust in driving these..

The GCSE outcomes in August 2022 were not at a standard that was acceptable, however with a change in school leadership and the direct intervention of the trust the results for 2023 showed a significant improvement, this trend had continued with further outcome improvement in 2024.

The Birkenhead Park School received a full Ofsted inspection in November 2023 with the following judgements:

Overall effectiveness	Requires improvement
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and Management	Good

The RI reflects the historic weak results but the report from the inspectors is very positive and describes a school that is operationally good.

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

The College welcomed the return of exams in 2022 and built on this in 2023 and 2024 where the results in all qualifications groups were the best the College's history in each of these successive years.

Value added analysis reinforces this assertion and the data for 2024 places the college as one of the top five sixth form colleges in England.

Whilst the college has a limited GCSE programme, mainly made up of students re-sitting Math and English, with a small cohort taking a full re-sit programme, the outcome from these qualifications continue to put the college as one of the highest performing in the country on raw results.

The college has also been shown, via independent analysis, to be sending its students to high tariff universities in numbers that have been described as exceptional.

The college retains its outstanding performance and is improving year-on-year.

Ofsted Report

Birkenhead Sixth Form College received a full Ofsted inspection in April 2024 with the following judgements:

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Outstanding
Quality of teaching learning and assessment	Outstanding
Personal development, behaviour, and welfare	Outstanding
Outcomes for learners	Outstanding
16 to 19 study programmes	Outstanding

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies in Note 1.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Financial Review

Most of the trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31st August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

At 31st August 2024, the net book value of fixed assets was £9,233k (2023: £9,470k). The movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 11 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the trust.

Income totalling £17,971k (2023: £17,704k) in the year ended 31st August 2024 is more than expenditure of £17,834k (2023: £16,189k) by £137k (2023: £1,515k) before the Merseyside Pension Fund actuarial loss in the year of £139k (2023: £3,000k gain).

It should be noted that, as required by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102), the provision has been made in the financial statements for the deficit identified in the recent actuarial valuation of the local government defined benefit pension scheme, to which a number of support staff are members. Details of the provision are given in Note 22 to the financial statements.

The trustees have reviewed the fund balances carried forward at 31st August 2024, together with the projected results for the next two years and confirm that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be drawn up on the going concern basis.

Reserves Policy

The trustees monitor the reserves of the trust. The review of reserves encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams and the need to match income with commitments.

The trust had total restricted funds (excluding pension reserve) at 31st August 2024 of £12,566k (2023: £12,601k) which included restricted general funds of £3,333k (2023: £3,131k) and a further £9,233k (2023: £9,470k) which can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets. In addition, the deficit on the restricted pension fund of £1,105k (2023: £1,138k) arises from an actuarial deficit on the local government pension scheme. The balance on the unrestricted reserves as at the 31st August 2024 is £nil (2023: £nil).

Trustees are aware of their responsibilities to ensure sufficient reserves are kept to ensure good financial practice and to maintain a safe financial future of the trust.

Investment Policy

The trust has a risk averse appetite to investment; any surplus reserves are invested for maximum return within that risk appetite.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

A risk register is maintained by the trust, which is reviewed at least annually by the trustees and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key financial risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the trust and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that may affect the trust. Not all the factors are within the trust's control. Other factors besides those listed may also adversely affect the trust.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

• Government Funding

The trust has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the DfE / ESFA and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Funding is derived through a number of direct and indirect contractual arrangements.
- By ensuring the trust is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- By careful management of the budget and identification of where costs can be reduced.
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the DfE/ESFA.

• Maintenance of High-Quality Provision

Maintain a focus on ensuring that improvement in achievement in all aspects of provision is on an upward trajectory.

The risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Rigorous improvement plans.
- Continued improvement of core skills.
- Effective quality assurance processes.
- Ongoing review of estates to make sure they are safe, comply with all relevant regulations and identify areas for improvements.

Plans for Future Periods

BePART Educational Trust will continue striving to improve achievement and progress of its students at all levels. It will also ensure that the impact across the community is positive and that the trust becomes the destination of choice for students in Birkenhead.

BePART Educational Trust will continue to seek to build capacity to enable it to support additional schools within the locality, as appropriate.

Employee Involvement

The Trust encourages the involvement of its employees in its management through regular meetings with employee representatives. The employee representatives have the responsibility for the dissemination of information of particular concern to employees, including financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the Trust, and for receiving their views on important matters of policy.

Equality and Disability Statement

The Trust is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We respect and value positively differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief and age. We strive vigorously to remove conditions, which place people at a disadvantage, and the Trust will actively combat bigotry. We also strive to remove conditions, which place people at a disadvantage, and we actively combat any discrimination.

The Trust considers all applications from persons with a disability, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee has a disability, every effort is made to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made. The Trust aims to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are, as far as possible, identical to those for other employees.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Birkenhead Park School

The Birkenhead Park School has a five-year strategic plan with a two year and a one year sub-plan. These aim to move the school to an OFSTED rating of Good within two years and outstanding in five. The key objectives for achieving this are:

- Improving the quality of teaching and learning
- Embedding the school's vision and values
- Improving attendance and punctuality
- Improving the effectiveness of leadership and management

Full details can be found in the school's development plan.

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

The College continues to be a strong performer with a national reputation. The college has won a number of prestigious awards, the below being some of the more recent:

- Educate North Sixth Form of the year (2023)
- Educate North Most Inspirational Sixth Form College (2023)
- COVID: Above and beyond (2020)
- TES GCSE Resit Provision (2020)
- Educate North Sixth Form of the year (2019)
- TES Beacon North Social Mobility (2019)
- Educate North Social Mobility (2019)
- TES Sixth Form College of the Year (2018)
- SFCA Social Mobility (2018)

The College continues to work at being a national leader with its mission being to seek high level outcomes by remaining true to its BePART values and through an evidence-based approach.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10th December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Lyn Hazell
Trustee
10th December 2024

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Governance Statement for the year ended 31st August 2024

Scope of Responsibility

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

The trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the chief executive, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the trust and the Secretary of State for Education. He is also responsible for reporting to the trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of Possible
John Cook	4	4
Phil Adams	3	4
Michael Kilbride	4	4
Lyn Hazell	2	4
Pete Murphy	4	4
Jill Murphy	3	4

It is a legal requirement and an individual's personal responsibility to declare conflicts of interest at BePART Educational Trust. For complete transparency, all Trust Members, Directors and senior leadership individuals must sign new Declaration of Interests each academic year where any relevant business and pecuniary interests are captured, signed, and countersigned. Declarations of Interest are displayed on the Trust website and are submitted to External Auditors are part of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

At the commencement of every AGM, Extraordinary, Directors or Committee meeting, a standing agenda item provides all attendees with the opportunity to declare an interest in any item on the agenda. This is recorded within the body of the minutes. Prior to the said agenda item, the Declaree removes themselves from the meeting room. After the item has been noted/approved, the Clerk invites the Declaree to re-join the meeting.

An up-to-date and complete Register of Interests is kept by the Clerk and is referred to during the meeting to ensure adherence to Charity Commission regulations.

The Audit Committee comprises up to four members of the Board. The committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Board.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the trust's internal scrutiny auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of trust management.

The trust's internal scrutiny auditors' purpose is to provide the trustees and the Education Skills Funding Agency with assurance that the system of internal control is effective and contributes to strong governance, risk management and control arrangements at the trust.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and the internal scrutiny audit undertakes periodic follow-up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit Committee also advises the Board on the appointment of internal and financial statements auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Board.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Governance Statement for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

The committee met three times during the year, the attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of Possible
John Cook	3	3
Phil Adams	2	3
Lyn Hazell	2	3
Pete Murphy	3	3

Review of Value for Money

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

- Tighter control of the budget setting process and focus on the financial position over the longer term.
- Continued focus on driving efficiencies from central services.
- Identification of improvements to financial controls to reduce the risk of improper use of public money.
- Ongoing monitoring of estates identifying areas requiring improvements and allocating annual budgets for required improvements. Continued focus on achieving value for money and making sure the estate is safe.

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 trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the trust for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The academy trust's system of internal 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, which is reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees.
- periodic financial reports including updates on financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- clearly defined purchasing guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- identification and management of risks.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Governance Statement for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

The board of trustees has appointed Mitchell Charlesworth to carry out the internal scrutiny audit.

In carrying out the internal scrutiny audit their role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the trust's financial systems. During the year, the internal auditors focused on the following areas:

- Review and appraisal of financial and other controls operated by the Trust.
- Review of the established policies and procedures adopted by the Trust's assessment of whether or not the internal controls are reliable as a basis for producing the financial accounts.
- Compliance and substantive audit testing where appropriate.
- Review of the College's procedures in place to promote and secure value for money.
- High level review of governance based on compliance with the Academies financial Handbook 2023.

On an annual basis reports are submitted by the internal scrutiny auditors to the board of trustees, through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive 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 scrutiny auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Correspondence from ESFA

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 10th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Lyn Hazell
Trustee

Michael Kilbride
Accounting Officer

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the year ended 31st August 2024

As accounting officer of BePART Educational Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial 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 funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial 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.

Michael Kilbride
Accounting Officer
10th December 2024

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the year ended 31st August 2024

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in 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 assume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Lyn Hazell
Trustee

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of BePART Educational Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of BePART Educational Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of BePART Educational Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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.

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
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 17, the trustees, who are also the directors of BePART Educational Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures response to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing the risks or material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we considered the following;

- The nature of the academy, the environment in which it operates, and the control procedures implemented by management and the trustees; and

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of BePART Educational Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

- Our enquiries of management and trustees about their identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

Based on our understanding of the academy and the sector we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to;

- Regulations and legislation pertinent to the academy's operations

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material impact on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in 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 (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of management override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to;

- Posting inappropriate journal entries.

Audit response to the risks identified;

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following;

- Gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the academy and the sector in which it operates;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management, trustees and legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with the Department for Education and Education & Skills Funding Agency,
- In addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; evaluating rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business. In testing these journals we looked at the following areas; depreciation, prepayments and accrued income, other debtors, accruals and deferred income, other creditors, wages and salaries.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/audit-assurance-and-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit/>

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of BePART Educational Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

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 and in respect of the separate opinion in relation to compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency on terms that have been agreed.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Scott Gillon BA (Hons) FCCA, CA (Senior Statutory Auditor),
For and on behalf of Wbg (Audit) Limited

Statutory Auditor
168 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4TP

10 December 2024

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to BePART Educational Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the year ended 31st August 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter (dated 22nd October 2024) and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by BePART Educational Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of BePART Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Direct consideration and corroboration of evidence used to inform the accounting officer's statements;
- Procedures to assess compliance with the funding agreement and Academies Financial Handbook from those already performed as part of the audit;
- Consideration of whether expenditure outside of the academies delegated authorities has received departmental approval;
- Evaluation and assessment of the operating effectiveness of the general control environment and operational level which are intended to reduce the risk of irregularity;
- Assessment of adequacy of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Testing transactions with connected parties to determine whether the Academy Trust has complied with the 'at cost' requirement of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to BePART Educational Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the year ended 31st August 2024 continued

- Consideration of whether the absence of a control represents a breach of authorities;
- Review of accounts or transactions susceptible to a greater risk of impropriety such as credit cards and cash accounts.

This list is not exhaustive, and we performed additional procedures designed to provide us with additional appropriate evidence to express a conclusion on regularity consistent with the requirements of Part 9 of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Conclusion

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

Signed:

Scott Gillon BA (Hons) FCCA, CA
Reporting Accountant

Wbg (Audit) Limited,
Statutory Auditor

10 December 2024

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31st August 2024

(including Income and Expenditure Accounts and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	2024 Unrestricted Funds £000	2024 Restricted General Funds £000	2024 Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2024 Total £000	2023 Unrestricted Funds £000	2023 Restricted General Funds £000	2023 Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2023 Total £000
Income and endowments from :									
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	173	173	-	-	980	980
Charitable activities:									
- Funding for the Trust's educational operations	3	-	16,787	-	16,787	-	15,948	-	15,948
Other trading activities	4	10	934	-	944	14	762	-	776
Investments	5	67	-	-	67	-	-	-	-
Total		77	17,721	173	17,971	14	16,710	980	17,704
Expenditure on :									
Charitable activities :									
- Academy trust educational operations	6,7	77	17,031	724	17,832	14	15,496	629	16,139
- Other	8	-	2	-	2	-	50	-	50
Total		77	17,033	724	17,834	14	15,546	629	16,189
Net income / (expenditure)		-	688	(551)	137	-	1,164	351	1,515
Transfers between funds		-	(314)	314	-	-	(716)	716	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		-	374	(237)	137	-	448	1,067	1,515
Other recognised gains and losses									
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	(139)	-	(139)	-	3,000	-	3,000
Net movement in funds		-	235	(237)	(2)	-	3,448	1,067	4,515
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		-	1,993	9,470	11,463	-	(1,455)	8,403	6,948
Total funds carried forward		-	2,228	9,233	11,461	-	1,993	9,470	11,463

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Balance Sheet As at 31st August 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2023 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		9,233		9,470
Current assets					
Debtors	12	663		703	
Cash at bank and in hand	19	4,626		4,340	
		<u>5,289</u>		<u>5,043</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,926)		(1,882)	
Net current assets			3,363		3,161
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>12,596</u>		<u>12,631</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>12,596</u>		<u>12,631</u>
Provisions					
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22		(1,105)		(1,138)
Other provisions	23		(30)		(30)
Net assets including pension liability			<u>11,461</u>		<u>11,463</u>
Funds of the Trust:					
Restricted funds					
- Fixed asset fund	14	9,233		9,470	
- General fund	14	3,333		3,131	
- Pension reserve	14	(1,105)		(1,138)	
Total restricted funds			<u>11,461</u>		<u>11,463</u>
Unrestricted income funds	14		-		-
Total funds			<u>11,461</u>		<u>11,463</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 48 were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10th December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Lyn Hazell
Trustee

Company Number: 07472190

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 31st August 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	518	1,156
Cash flows from investing activities	18	(232)	(712)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>286</u>	<u>444</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September		4,340	3,896
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August	19	<u>4,626</u>	<u>4,340</u>

Analysis of change in funds

Cash at bank and in hand			
1 September 2023		4,340	3,896
Cash flows		286	444
31 August 2024		<u>4,626</u>	<u>4,340</u>

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

1.1. Basis of Preparation

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

BePART Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements, to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the function currency of the Trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

1.2. Going Concern

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

The trustees have reviewed the fund balances at 31st August 2024 and have approved budget and cash flow forecasts for 2024-25 and future years and consider it appropriate for the financial statements to be drawn up on a going concern basis.

At 31st August 2024 the trust had net assets of £11,461k before providing for a defined benefit pension scheme deficit under FRS102 of £1,105k. The Board have considered a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and are satisfied that the trust can continue to operate and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The pension scheme deficit is not expected to crystallise for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board consider that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

1.3. Income

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

▪ Grants

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

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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

- **Sponsorship income**

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated Services, Facilities and Services**

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

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

1.4. Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are stated inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

1.5. Tangible Fixed Assets

Individual 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 the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and are 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:

Birkenhead Park School

- Furniture and equipment 25%
- Computer equipment 25%
- Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the remaining term of the lease

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

- Furniture and equipment 10%
- Computer equipment 20%
- Freehold Buildings inherited 4%
- Freehold Buildings 2.5% to 6.67%
- Motor Vehicles 10%

Depreciation on all assets commences the month after acquisition.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

1.6. Liabilities

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

1.7. 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.

1.8. Leased Assets

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

1.9. Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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 other financial instrument.

1.10. Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

1.11. Pension Benefits

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

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 net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains will only be recognised to the extent that it is considered recoverable. At 31st August 2024 one of the pension schemes is in a surplus position, this has not been recognised on the Balance Sheet see note 22 for further details.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

1.12. Fund Accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by 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 Education & Skills Funding Agency / Department for Education.

1.13. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in Note 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31st March 2013 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st August 2024 for the Birkenhead Park School, and for the Birkenhead Sixth Form College. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

A critical area of judgement for the Trust is to not recognise the pension surplus after taking into consideration FRS102 section 28.22 which states that a pension surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme (more details can be found in note 22).

2. Donations and Capital Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Capital grants	-	173	173	980
	<u>-</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>980</u>

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

3. Funding for the Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
- General annual grant (GAG)	-	5,911	5,911	5,448
- Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	10,058	10,058	9,968
	-	15,969	15,969	15,416
Other Government grants				
- Local authority grants	-	700	700	417
- Other grants	-	118	118	115
	-	818	818	532
	-	16,787	16,787	15,948

4. Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Other Income	-	550	550	457
Catering income	-	384	384	305
Hire of facilities	10	-	10	14
	10	934	944	776

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Bank interest received	67	-	67	-
	67	-	67	-

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non Pay Premises Expenditure £000	Other £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Trust's educational operations:					
- Direct costs	10,345	-	1,519	11,864	10,502
- Allocated support costs	1,995	1,973	2,000	5,968	5,637
	12,340	1,973	3,519	17,832	16,139

Net expenditure for the period includes

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	49	49
Depreciation	723	627
Fees payable to auditor for :		
- Audit	9	9
- Other services	5	4

7. Charitable Activities

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Direct costs - educational operations	11,864	10,502
Support costs - educational operations	5,968	5,637
	17,832	16,139

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Support staff costs	1,995	1,995	2,183
Depreciation	723	723	626
Technology costs	184	184	170
Recruitment and support	39	39	33
Maintenance of premises and equipment	250	250	209
PFI Charge	1,077	1,077	974
Cleaning	15	15	13
Rent & rates	79	79	75
Energy costs	552	552	436
Insurance	61	61	58
Security and transport	5	5	3
Catering	622	622	488
Bank interest and charges	4	4	9
Professional fees / management charge	67	67	102
Other support costs	295	295	258
	5,968	5,968	5,637

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

8. Staff Costs and employee benefits

a. Staff costs during the period were:

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Wages and salaries	9,376	8,396
Social security costs	948	838
Pension costs	1,952	2,011
Other employee benefits	4	-
	12,280	11,245
Agency staff costs	60	82
Staff restructuring costs	2	50
	12,342	11,377
Staff restructuring costs comprise :		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	2	50
	2	50

b. Staff severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments (2023 : 3) in the year, disclosed in the following bands :

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
£0 - £25,000	1	2
£25,001 - £50,000	-	1
£50,001 - £100,000	-	-

Included in staff restructuring costs are statutory severance payments totalling £2k (2023: £50k), individually the payments were : £2k..

c. Staff numbers

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	123	124
Administration and support	155	146
Management	9	8
	287	278

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	9	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	2	4
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1, in addition to other key management personnel. 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 £975k (2023: £818k)

9. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' and Directors' 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, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Mike Kilbride (Chief Executive and trustee appointed 1 st April 2018)	
Remuneration	£136,829
Employer's Pension Contribution paid	£35,252

During the period ended 31st August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £271 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustee (2023 : £173) .

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in Note 26.

10. Trustees', Directors' and Officers' Insurance

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Improvements £000	Leasehold Improvements £000	Assets under Construction £000	Furniture and Equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Computer Equipment £000	2024 Total £000	2023 Total £000
Cost								
At 1 September 2023	10,694	248	93	800	16	248	12,099	10,550
Additions	61	-	107	241	-	77	486	1,697
Reclassification	80	-	(189)	109	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(182)	-	(7)	(188)	(145)
At 31 August 2024	10,835	248	11	968	16	318	12,397	12,102
Depreciation								
At 1 September 2023	2,016	138	-	366	5	104	2,629	2,146
Charge in year	485	15	-	150	2	71	723	629
Disposals	-	-	-	(181)	-	(7)	(188)	(142)
At 31 August 2024	2,501	153	-	335	7	168	3,164	2,633
Net book values								
At 31 August 2024	8,334	95	11	633	9	150	9,233	9,469
At 31 August 2023	8,678	110	93	434	11	144	9,470	8,404

12. Debtors

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Trade debtors	26	45
VAT recoverable	178	237
Prepayments and accrued income	459	421
	663	703

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Trade creditors	799	646
Taxation and social security	471	387
Other creditors	240	254
Accruals and deferred income	416	595
	1,926	1,882
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September	271	214
Amounts released from previous years	(271)	(214)
Resources deferred in the year	164	271
Deferred income at 31 August	164	271

At the 31st August 2024 the BePART Educational Trust was holding funds received in advance for funding in which the funding period overlaps the financial year.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

14. Funds

	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000	Incoming Resources £000	Resources Expended £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Restricted general funds					
Other trading activities	-	934	(934)	-	-
General annual grant	3,094	5,911	(5,395)	(314)	3,296
Transfer on conversion	37	-	-	-	37
COVID-19 Catchup Premium	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	10,058	(10,058)	-	-
Other	-	818	(818)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,138)	-	172	(139)	(1,105)
	1,993	17,721	(17,033)	(453)	2,228
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	7,422	-	-	-	7,422
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,048	173	(724)	314	1,811
	9,470	173	(724)	314	9,233
Total restricted funds	11,463	17,894	(17,757)	(139)	11,461
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	-	77	(77)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	-	77	(77)	-	-
Total funds	11,463	17,971	(17,834)	(139)	11,461

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

- Restricted fund (excluding pension and other restricted reserves) represent funds received from the Department for Education and is specifically spent on the running of the Academy Trust;
- Other restricted reserve represents funds which are restricted by the donor;
- Pension reserve represents the liability on the Local Government Pension Scheme Liability;
- Restricted fixed asset funds represent resources which are applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose; and
- Unrestricted funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives of the Trust at the discretion of the Directors.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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

	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000	Incoming Resources £000	Resources Expended £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
Other trading activities	-	762	(762)	-	-
General annual grant	2,484	5,448	(4,123)	(716)	3,094
Transfer on conversion	37	-	-	-	37
COVID-19 Catchup Premium	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	9,968	(9,968)	-	-
Other	-	532	(532)	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,977)	-	(161)	3,000	(1,138)
	(1,456)	16,711	(15,546)	2,284	1,993
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	7,422	-	-	-	7,422
DfE/EFA capital grants	982	980	(629)	716	2,048
	8,404	980	(629)	716	9,470
Total restricted funds	6,948	17,690	(16,176)	3,000	11,463
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	-	13	(13)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	-	13	(13)	-	-
Total funds	6,948	17,704	(16,189)	3,000	11,463

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000	Incoming Resources £000	Resources Expended £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Restricted general funds					
Other trading activities	-	1,696	(1,696)	-	-
General annual grant	2,484	11,359	(9,518)	(1,030)	3,296
Transfer on conversion	37	-	-	-	37
COVID-19 Catchup Premium	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	20,026	(20,026)	-	-
Other	-	1,350	(1,350)	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,977)	-	11	2,861	(1,105)
	(1,456)	34,431	(32,579)	1,831	2,228
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	7,422	-	-	-	7,422
DfE/EFA capital grants	982	1,153	(1,353)	1,030	1,811
	8,404	1,153	(1,353)	1,030	9,233
Total restricted funds	6,948	35,584	(33,932)	2,861	11,461
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	-	90	(90)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	-	90	(90)	-	-
Total funds	6,948	35,674	(34,023)	2,861	11,461

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Birkenhead Park School	2,218	1,712
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	1,182	1,482
BePART Educational Trust	(67)	(63)
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>3,333</u>	<u>3,131</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	9,233	9,470
Pension reserve	(1,105)	(1,138)
	<u>11,461</u>	<u>11,463</u>

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2024 are represented by:

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £000	2024 Restricted General Funds £000	2024 Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2024 Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,233	9,233
Current assets	-	5,289	-	5,289
Current liabilities	-	(1,926)	-	(1,926)
Non-current liabilities	-	(30)	-	(30)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,105)	-	(1,105)
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>2,228</u>	<u>9,233</u>	<u>11,461</u>

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

	2023 Unrestricted Funds £000	2023 Restricted General Funds £000	2023 Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2023 Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,470	9,470
Current assets	-	5,043	-	5,043
Current liabilities	-	(1,882)	-	(1,882)
Non-current liabilities	-	(30)	-	(30)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,138)	-	(1,138)
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>1,993</u>	<u>9,470</u>	<u>11,463</u>

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

16. Long-term commitments

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

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Expiring within one year	49	49
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	139	181
Expiring over five years	-	-
	188	230

Other contractual commitments

At 31st August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under the other contractual commitments was :

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Expiring within one year	1,054	1,034
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	4,432	4,345
Expiring over five years	2,252	3,394
	7,738	8,773

The academy trust occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The trust itself is not party to this service concession contract, however the academy trust has entered into a supporting agreement towards the costs of the local authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments including costs for catering, cleaning, utilities, and other ancillary services.

17. Reconciliation of Net Expenditure to Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	137	1,514
Adjusted for :		
Depreciation (Note 11)	723	626
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(173)	(980)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(14)	-
Interest receivable (Note 5)	(67)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (Note 22)	(214)	3
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (Note 22)	42	158
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	40	(168)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	44	3
Net cash provided by operating activities	518	1,156

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

18. Cash Flows from Investing Activities

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Dividend, interest and rents from investments	67	-
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	14	3
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(486)	(1,695)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	173	980
Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance	(232)	(712)

19. Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	4,626	4,340
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,626	4,340

20. Contingent Liabilities

Funding agreement contingency:

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a capital grant was received, the trust is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the trust serving notice, the trust shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at that time of the trust's premises and other assets held for the purpose of the trust, and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

21. 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.

22. Pension and Similar Obligations

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

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

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trust. 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 make 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 review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are :

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,442k, Birkenhead Park School £530k (2023: £440k), Birkenhead Sixth Form College £912k (2023: £767k).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is a 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 (LGPS)

Birkenhead Park School

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 31st August 2024 was £389k (2023: £372k), of which employer's contributions totalled £321k (2023: £311k) and employees' contributions totalled £68k (2023: £48k). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.1% per cent for employers with employee contributions of 5.5% to 12.5%.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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 18th July 2013 and on the 21st July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on Gov.uk.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31/08/2024	At 31/08/2023
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.7%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.4%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6%	2.8%

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

	At 31/08/2024	At 31/08/2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.8	20.8
Females	23.4	23.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.1
Females	25.1	25.1

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £000
Equity instruments	2,134	1,799
Debt instruments	1,424	1,185
Property	453	415
Cash	-	59
Total market value of assets	4,011	3,458

The actual gain on scheme assets was £305k (2023: gain £125k).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	141	76
Net interest cost	(52)	(96)
Total operating charge	89	(20)

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
At 1 September	4,623	5,744
Current service cost	183	227
Interest cost	246	246
Employee contributions	69	61
Actuarial loss / (gain)	140	(1,527)
Benefits paid	(145)	(128)
At 31 August	5,116	4,623

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

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
At 1 September	3,458	3,375
Interest income	194	150
Actuarial gain / (loss)	111	(303)
Administration	(6)	(5)
Employer contributions	330	308
Employee contributions	69	61
Benefits paid	(145)	(128)
At 31 August	4,011	3,458

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31st August 2024 was £483k (2023: £447k), of which employer's contributions totalled £353k (2023: £326k) and employees' contributions totalled £129k (2023: £121k). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.5% per cent for employers with employee contributions of 5.5% to 12.5%.

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 18th July 2013 and on the 21st July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on Gov.uk

The Trust is required to state the following within the financial statements to comply with FRS102.

An entity shall recognise a pension surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

In addition to this guidance, consideration should be given to the following:

- The calculation of a surplus at 31st August as part of an annual actuarial valuation does not in itself give rise to a reduction in contributions;
- The right to a refund of a surplus depends on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within its control, the entity does not have an unconditional right and should not recognise an asset; and
- Creation of an asset for accounting purposes by undertaking an actuarial valuation does not give rise to a legal right to the asset created.

Taking the above into consideration the Trust has recognised no asset on the Balance Sheet. A restriction on the pension surplus has been adjusted against actuarial gains to reduce the asset to £nil (2024 : £115k, 2023 : £nil).

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31/08/2024	At 31/08/2023
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.6%	2.8%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.4%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6%	2.8%

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

	At 31/08/2024	At 31/08/2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.8	20.8
Females	23.4	23.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.1
Females	25.1	25.1

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £000
Equity instruments	5,333	4,720
Debt instruments	3,557	3,111
Property	1,132	1,089
Cash	-	156
Total market value of assets	10,022	9,076

The actual loss on scheme assets was £780k (2023 gain : £308k).

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	73	(79)
Net interest cost	10	(62)
Total operating charge	83	(141)

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

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
At 1 September	9,049	10,120
Current service cost	272	390
Interest cost	485	433
Employee contributions	130	122
Actuarial loss / (gain)	280	(1,782)
Benefits paid	(309)	(234)
Restriction of pension surplus	115	-
At 31 August	10,022	9,049

Pension and Similar Obligations (continued)

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

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
At 1 September	9,076	8,512
Interest income	495	371
Actuarial gain / (loss)	285	(6)
Administration	(10)	(10)
Employer contributions	355	321
Employee contributions	130	122
Benefits paid	(309)	(234)
At 31 August	10,022	9,076

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

The combined net LGPS pension liability for the trust is as follows :

	BPS 2024 £000	BSFC 2024 £000	Consolidated 2024 £000	BPS 2023 £000	BSFC 2023 £000	Consolidated 2023 £000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(5,116)	(9,907)	(15,023)	(4,623)	(9,049)	(13,672)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	4,011	10,022	14,033	3,458	9,076	12,534
Restriction of pension assets	-	(115)	(115)	-	-	-
(Deficit) / surplus in the scheme	(1,105)	-	(1,105)	(1,165)	27	(1,138)

23. Other Provisions

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Enhanced pensions		
As at 1st September 2023	-	-
Transferred on conversion	(30)	(30)
Expenditure in the period	-	-
Additions in the period	-	-
	-	-
As at 31st August 2024	(30)	(30)

24. Financial instruments

	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss	-	-
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	253	282
Total	253	282
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit and loss	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	1,088	900
Total	1,088	900

25. Related Party Transactions

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

BEPART EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Cook Lawyers Ltd

John Cook, a trustee, is also a director of Cook Lawyers Ltd. During the year the trust entered into a contract with Cook Lawyers Ltd for the provision of HR Legal Services and Directors and Officers insurance with a total value of £4k (2023: £4k). The contract was entered into following normal purchasing regulations and signed off by the Chief Executive.

26. Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no significant post balance sheet events.