

Company registration number 08314692 (England and Wales)

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

A Moon
M Cockcroft (Resigned 31 October 2024)
S Lowe
S McDowell (Appointed 18 January 2024)
K Keenan (Appointed 29 April 2024)

Trustees

S Lowe (Resigned 29 April 2024)
M Cockcroft (Resigned 31 October 2024)
V Hutchins
D Randle (Accounting Officer)
J Mellor
A Moon (Chair of Trustees)
K McCarthy
M Ogden
C Connolly
L Sweeney (Appointed 26 September 2023)
D Clarkson (Appointed 8 January 2024)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	D Randle
- Chief Operating Officer	J Hawkrigg
- Trust Finance Manager	J Cragg
- HR Manager	D Beaumont
- Compliance Manager	S Collinge
- School Service Manager (Resigned 31/10/2023)	D Cairns
- Newhouse Academy Headteacher	A Burnham
- Hollingworth Academy Headteacher	R McGinty
- Newhouse Deputy Headteacher	M Aspden
- Newhouse Deputy Headteacher	H Gregory-Harris
- Hollingworth Deputy Headteacher	C Williamson
- Hollingworth Designated Safeguarding Lead	N Wainwright
- Hollingworth Designated Safeguarding Lead	A Harwood
- Hollingworth Designated Safeguarding Lead (Resigned 31/08/2024)	J Brown
- Hollingworth Designated Safeguarding Lead (Appointed 01/09/2024)	B Robinson
- Newhouse Designated Safeguarding Lead	V Wilde
- Hollingworth SENCO	C Inman

Company registration number

08314692 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Office 1
Floor 3
Hafley Court
Buckley Road
Rochdale
OL12 9DR

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated

Hollingworth Academy
Newhouse Academy
Hollingworth Learning Trust

Location

Rochdale
Heywood
Rochdale

Headteacher

Mr R McGinty
Mr A Burnham
Mr D Randle

Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP
Ninth Floor
Landmark, St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
58 Yorkshire Street
Rochdale
OL16 1JP

Solicitors

Stoneking LLP
13 Queen Square
Bath
BA1 2HJ

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

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

The Trust operates two academies for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in the Pennine and Heywood district of Rochdale. Hollingworth Academy has a pupil capacity of 1,350 and had a roll of 1,343 in the school census on 1 October 2024. Newhouse Academy has a pupil capacity of 1,050 and had a roll of 977 in the school census on 1 October 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The trustees of Hollingworth Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Hollingworth Learning Trust. The Trust's three core layers of governance are Members, Trustees and Local Governing Bodies.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Trustees are recruited either via advert or a expression of interest to the Trust and are approved by the Members. Trustees are recruited based on the skills they are able to bring to the board and complete the required pre role checks prior to appointment.

- Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Members.
- The CEO
- Co-opted Governors elected by Trustees

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

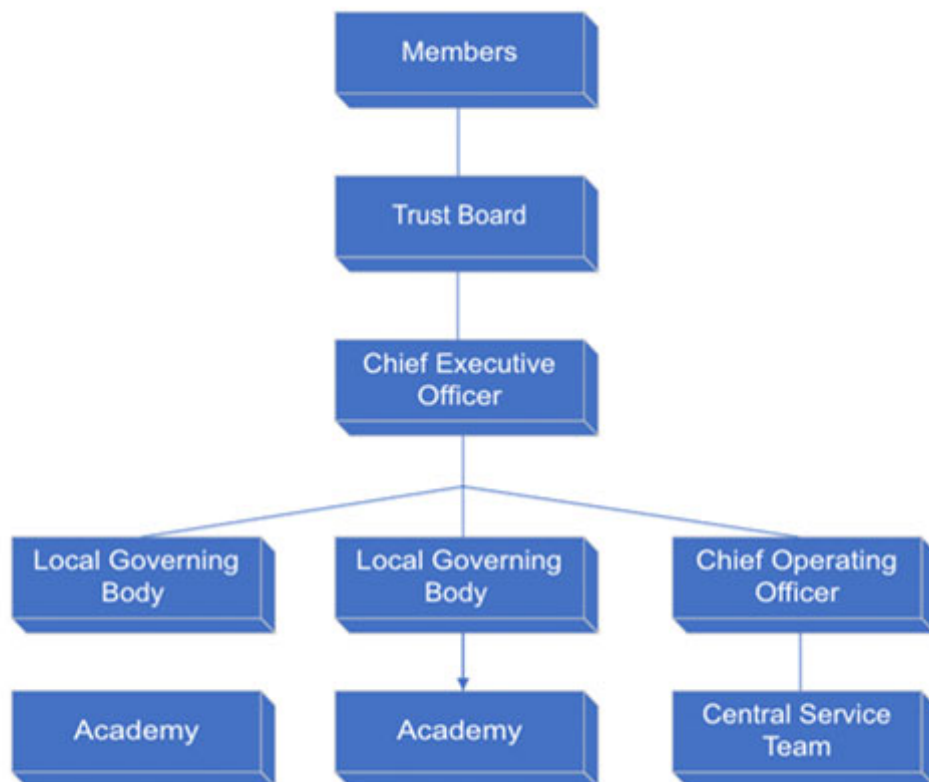
The induction and training of new governors will depend on their existing experience. They are asked to complete a Governors Skills Audit. The Chair meets with all new Governors and discusses the Academy objectives and activities. They have access to current policies, minutes and all relative paperwork and can request for past papers. We also buy back the Local Authority Governance service and all Governors are given training schedules for all relevant courses. All new Governors are given a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Organisational structure

The structure is:



The Members have overall nominal responsibility for the Trust but they exercise their functions through the Trust Board. Each Member guarantees to contribute £10 if the Trust were to become insolvent and is wound up – that is the “guarantee” implied by the term “company limited by guarantee”.

The main powers and duties of the Members in broad terms are:

1. To appoint and remove Trustees.
2. Through a collaborative process to monitor and evaluate the performance of the Trust Board.
3. To maintain the Membership and to appoint Members.
4. To approve any proposed changes to the Articles of Association.
5. To receive the annual accounts of the Trust.

The Trustees are the directors of the Trust and have a similar role to governors in a Local Authority-maintained school. As company directors their duties are to:-

- act within their powers;
- promote the success of the company;
- exercise independent judgment;
- exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence;
- avoid conflicts of interest;
- not to accept benefits from third parties; and
- declare any interest in proposed transactions or arrangements.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

While Trustees can serve as Members, best practice recognises that the Members are responsible for holding the Trustees to account. Therefore, there should be separation between the Members and Trustees.

The Trust Board is permitted to exercise all the powers of the Trust. The Trust Board will delegate to the CEO responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Trust.

The Trustees (with the consent of the Members where changes to the Trust Board are at issue) have the right to review and adapt the Trust's governance structure at any time, which includes revoking delegation.

The Trust Board focuses on the three core functions of governance:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the CEO to account for the educational performance of the academies and their pupils, and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the Trust and making sure its money is well spent.

The Trust Board meets on a half termly (or more frequently if necessary) basis. The Trust Board also has the three core committees: School Improvement, Finance & Resources and Audit which meet on a termly (or more frequently if necessary) basis, to enable more scrutiny and healthy challenge. These committees are made up of Trustees with the relevant skills but, subject to the consent of the Trust Board, external advisors, LGB representatives, staff and parent representatives may also attend any committee meetings to make recommendations to the Trust Board. These additional attendees shall not have voting rights at committee meetings.

The Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are Committees of the Trust Board and have delegated decision-making powers in accordance with this SoD and their Ofsted grading. The LGBs shall each hold at least three meetings in every school year.

There are eight elements to effective governance:

1. the right people around the table;
2. understanding the role and responsibilities;
3. good chairing;
4. professional clerking;
5. good relationships based on trust;
6. knowing the school – its data, staff, parents, children and community;
7. commitment to asking challenging questions; and
8. confidence to have courageous conversations in the interests of the pupils.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academies have a Pay Policy in place which follows, as far as is practical, the Teachers Pay and Conditions Document for Teachers and NJC for support staff. This sets out the arrangements for setting pay and remuneration for all key management personnel. The pay and remuneration of the Headteacher is determined by the board of Governors following the guidelines set in the Pay Policy. This is independently reviewed.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period -

Full-time equivalent employee number -

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
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0%	-
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1%-50%	-
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51%-99%	-
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100%	-
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Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
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Total pay bill	13,126,000
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Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-
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Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours -

Related parties, connected charities and co-operation with other organisations

There are no connected organisations, including related party relationships.

Risk management

The charity trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage those risks. These include:

- Capital Reserves balance
- The recruitment of high quality staff
- Admission of sufficient pupils
- Fraud
- Employment Law
- IT infrastructure and Security
- National Formula Funding
- Safeguarding
- Operational Challenges when new Academies join the Trust
- Inflationary rises and Energy

Engagement with employees

The Trust encourages the involvement of its employees in its management through regular meetings of the worker/director councils which have responsibility for the dissemination of information of particular concern to employees and for receiving their views on important matters of policy.

Disabled persons

The Trust will employ disabled persons when they appear to be suitable for a particular vacancy and every effort is made to ensure that they are given full and fair consideration when such vacancies arise. There is a training scheme in operation so that employees who have been injured or disabled in the course of their employment can, where possible, continue in employment with the Trust.

During employment the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advancement opportunities are available to enable them to reach their full potential.

The number of disabled persons employed by the Trust during the year was 3 (2023: 3).

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

This content is included under that heading within the strategic report section.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and aims

Ambitious - We have high expectations for all of our children and staff. They deserve the best we can do.

Positive - We will never fail to believe that people and schools can improve.

Resilient - We never 'give up'. We make long term commitments to pupils, families, communities and schools.

Reflective - We constantly evaluate what we do and improve. We are never complacent.

Principled - We always promote equity, equality and challenge injustice. We always act in the 'best interests' of our pupils.

In order to achieve this, we will adopt the following aims and objectives:

- We will educate the child through a broad and balanced curriculum, with each child thriving and succeeding creatively, emotionally and academically.
- To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Rochdale and the surrounding area, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances; or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.
- Education will be community based, inclusive and will respect and retain the ethos of each school. The Trust has a co-operative set of values and principles incorporating a strong ethos and upholding British Values.
- The Hollingworth Learning Trust will be underpinned by expertise developed as a (now legacy) National Teaching School and National Support School.
- The cross phase approach will maximise the opportunities for colleagues to work alongside colleagues from different phases to address the 'progress dip' that has potential to occur on all transitions.
- It will mirror existing staff terms and conditions and will recognise from the outset the importance of retaining and attracting staff of the highest calibre.
- We believe in the benefits to the community of local schools and would therefore always attempt to maintain schools subject to their viability.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education. Obviously as Academies are open to all this, guidance has been demonstrated to be followed.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

The 2024 GCSE results were extremely positive for the trust. Hollingworth Academy had the strongest P8 in the LA with some key improvements in attainment in key subjects. Newhouse Academy continues on it's upward trend in terms of P8 and, in comparison to its P8 for 2019 (pre-pandemic), continues to be one of the most improved schools in the country.

Both academies continue to offer an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum for their learners and are committed to providing a high quality, inclusive pastoral care. The development and engagement of pupils in learning, extra-curricular sports and arts and wider learning opportunities is a key feature of provision.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Promoting the success of the academy trust

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires the directors to act in the way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the charity to achieve its charitable purposes. The Act states that in doing so, the directors should have regard, amongst other matters, to:

The likely consequence of any decision in the long term

The Trust makes all key decision through reference to its long-term strategic plan and after projecting the timing and impact of such decisions. This strategy is primarily designed around the objective to improve educational outcome for students but every decision and operational approach is regularly reviewed for its impact on all stakeholders and the need for any changes or modifications to decisions previously taken.

The interests of the company's employees

Our employees are vital to the Trust and we regard ongoing, regular engagement with them as a top priority. We measure employee engagement through regular feedback, wellbeing surveys and joint communication sessions. We address any issues raised by our employees as quickly as possible and communicate back to them what we have done. All staff are offered access to a number of well-being support services and the Trust seeks to ensure that staff welfare is actively considered and addressed through our health and safety policies as well as through local staff committees, we also actively seek to ensure that the working environment meets due high standards of safety and security. We offer Cycle to Work scheme and a health cover scheme to employees which gives them access to free or subsidised medical appointments, Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and reduced gym membership.

The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers, and others

Our relationships with partners and suppliers are key to our effectiveness. The Trust actively seeks to engage in service reviews with all key suppliers. These reviews are focussed on a two way relationship with the Trust based with an aim of helping one another to achieve an optimum service as efficiently as possible and according to the best value for money. Where the Trust has procured outsourced services, we seek to ensure that staff and management from that contractor are supported as an equal member of the school community and stakeholders.

The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment

We recognise our responsibility to care for the environment and aim to minimise our environmental impact in all our activities. As well as covering environmental issues in our school curriculum, the Trust encourages all staff and students to participate in initiatives to reduce negative environmental impacts. These include the promotion of recycling of waste and actions to maximise efficiency in energy consumption.

The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

Our reputation and public trust in its Academies is fundamental to our future success. We use our organisational values and behaviours in our recruitment and training for our employees to ensure that we maintain high standards, and these are used in our appraisal processes. Our procurement and ethical policies and procedures ensure that our values are also part of our selection of partners and suppliers.

The need to act fairly as between members of the company

In terms of members of the academy Trust, fairness in our dealings is upheld through having a clear and well communicated strategy, and financial discipline backed by strong internal controls. We have transparent reporting at regular intervals through the year, continual access to senior management. We aim to be a fully inclusive organisation and we will not unfairly discriminate against our students, staff or any other member of our community and stakeholders.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Financial review

The Academies income is known at the beginning of the year. The main financial risk for the Academies this year was managing the uncertainties around energy crisis, inflationary rises and staff payrises. We still had increased supply costs with some staff appointments not achieved in September 2023. The PFi school had uncertainties around energy costs throughout the year. Newhouse Academy was handed over a new three storey practical block on the 2 September 2024. It was able to utilise some of its surpluses in relacing legacy furniture and equipment, they have been able to release funds on additional teaching staff to enable further school improvement over the next two years.

Funds at the year end are £21,453,000 (2023: £28,724,000 as restated) with a deficit of £7,271,000 being generated in the year (2023: deficit of £4,678,000 as restated). Net current assets at the year end are £1,168,000 (2023: £1,282,000 as restated).

Depreciation on the main school building at Newhouse Academy has been accelerated due to a demolition process which is currently being undertaken. This has increased depreciation in the current year by £6,650,368, and the previous year by £3,879,382. Excluding this adjustment, the deficit for the year would be £621,000 (2023: deficit of £799,000).

The restricted general fund, excluding pension reserves, plus unrestricted funds was £1,168,000 (2023: £1,282,000) at 31 August 2024. This represents an increase of £114,000 compared to the previous year (2023: a increase of £13,000 compared to the previous year).

Reserves policy

The governors review the reserve levels of the Academies constantly. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserve.

The Trust is working towards a reserve policy that will allow changing needs to be addressed and opportunities to be grasped. The Academy's current level of net current assets is £1,168,000 (2023: £1,282,000). The Trust has produced forecasts which suggest that the funds surplus will see some capital outlay over the next 2/3 years as we will be investing in capital projects at Newhouse and look to align these with the proposed DfE new build to reduce impact on pupils and eventually benefit the pupils and community.

The total funds at 31 August 2024 are £21,453,000 (2023: £28,724,000 as restated).

Investment policy

The current policy is to only invest in funds that are risk free and immediately accessible deposit accounts.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Plans for future periods

Hollingworth Learning Trust is committed to our challenging mission of making a positive difference to the lives of our children, providing the very best education in an environment that sup ports, values, and recognises our people.

We support school improvement and share innovation across our academies in order to raise standards, improve provision and unlock potential. The purpose of each academy is to improve the life chances of each child regardless of ability, gender, social background, or ethnic origin.

As of the year end we have received confirmation from the DfE that we are able to develop our provision for the Primary sector. Heap Bridge Primary School transferred over to the Trust on the 1 November 2024. They are a one form entry primary school with 175 pupil places, they have experienced staff which will really help the trust to further develop our primary school offer.

After the year end, on 2 September 2024, the DfE transferred a new building for Newhouse Academy to the Academy Trust.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Principal risks and uncertainties

This will link to the risk management process that the Trust has in place. The Academy's principal risk is the full admission of pupil places. This enables us to receive funding streams matching our current operational costs.

Hollingworth Academy continues to be consistently significantly over subscribed as you can see from the Year 7 intake figures below for 2023 and 2024. These figures demonstrate the popularity of the Academy, which is mainly due to the consistently high academic performance of our pupils and our reputation for excellent standards of behaviour and school uniform.

One of the principal challenges facing Newhouse Academy is securing a consistent strong uptake of pupils in Year 7. The Academy has a pan of 210. The Academy is on a strong trajectory of improvement and is working strenuously to promote the successes and achievements of pupils and the Academy. Investment has been deployed to ensure that these are well publicised to the local community. The figures below and feedback from local Primary schools demonstrate this is working and more pupils are choosing Newhouse as their Priority one placement.

Hollingworth Academy

	Sept 2023 (PAN 270)		Sept 2024 (PAN 275)	
Criteria	Applications (806)	Admitted	Applications (832)	Admitted
LAC		7		2
EHCP		15		13
Medical		1		0
Siblings		94		92
Service Premium		0		0
Staff		4		1
Other		149		167

Newhouse Academy

	Sept 2023 (PAN 210)		Sept 2024 (PAN 210)	
Criteria	Applications (208)	Admitted	Applications (210)	Admitted
LAC		4		4
EHCP		4		9
Medical		25		0
Siblings		56		33
Service Premium		0		0
Staff		1		0
Other		118		164

Fundraising

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

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period

1 September
2023 to 31
August 2024

1 September
2022 to 31
August 2023

Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)

-

-

Energy consumption breakdown (kWh)

- Gas

1,830,645

1,654,619

- Electricity

1,495,229

1,400,174

- Transport fuel

-

13,032

3,325,874

3,067,825

Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e

- Gas consumption

334.17

302.03

- Owned transport

0.60

0.43

Total Scope 1

334.77

302.46

Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e

- Purchased electricity

289.15

270.77

Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e

- Business travel in employee owned vehicles

0.81

0.76

Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e

624.73

573.99

Intensity ratio

Tonnes CO2e per pupil

0.27

0.25

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2021 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

We have chosen the intensity measurement ratio as the total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Newhouse Academy was having a rebuild and demolition of the over 15 year buildings, this will include the boiler room. This replacement will require to be more efficient and in-line with current DFE new build which includes an array of PV Panels on the new building roof and on new canopies. The 12 year old retaining building is being fitted out with LED lighting and external areas have been LED replaced. We are aware that the Academy has used more energy this year as previous years and investigations show this to be a fault on the 12 year old PV Panels which have been scheduled for an inspection and repair, we are also convinced that the increased in energy used is down to the rebuild which has effective the building efficiencies and our ability to monitor. Once the building works are completed and demolish we will closely monitor energy usage and be in a better place to react more proactively.

At Hollingworth Academy the savings made over the last 12 months are from asking the contractor to set lower temperatures in the classroom and switching fan speeds to lower settings. At the beginning of the year the servers and PC's were replaced with more energy efficient devices, this has shown a reduction in electricity for the academic year to 2020/21 levels.

AUDITOR

RSM UK Audit LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The trustees' report is approved by order of the board of trustees and the strategic report (included therein) is approved by the board of trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on ..13/12/24..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....
A Moon
Chair of Trustees

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Hollingworth Learning 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.

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 3 times during the year, Every month financial data is shared with all Trustees electronically, ensuring effective oversight of funds. The Trust board continues to include the role of Finance and Resources which includes:

- review and monitor the annual budget
- benchmark spending
- ensure best value
- monitor budget over 3+ years
- review/approve staffing changes

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
D Randle (Accounting Officer)	2	3
M Ogden	2	3
A Moon (Chair of Trustees)	2	3
J Mellor	1	3
K McCarthy	2	3
V Hutchins	3	3
C Connelly	3	3
M Cockcroft	3	3
L Sweeney (Appointed 26 September 2023)	3	3
D Clarkson (Appointed 8 January 2024)	1	2

The Trust board has had a constant composition of trustees with one leaver and two newly appointed, this has allowed us to develop as a board and give a constant approach. The board has access to monthly management accounts and can track the financial performance of the Academies and central trust service. We have supported the Central Service Team on Strategic matters and challenged Trust Improvement Plan, procedures, financial and policy. The data provided to the Trust Board is acceptable for us to carry out our roles but we intend to develop these in some areas.

A main focus for the Trust over the last 18 months has been growth and we are involved with a number of Primary Schools within the High school locations to really explore this as an option. We had an application from Heap Bridge and after a full due diligence process and negotiations with the DFE, the Primary school has joined our Trust from 1 November 2024. We have a further 6 Primary schools involved in an affiliate programme of which 2 of them are now buying back our Trust ICT SLA. Five of the Primary schools have received an ICT audit from our Trust and all six of them are involved in a planned SEND review and audit.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance reviews

All Trustees were selected and appointed based on their experience, knowledge and skills to enable the Trust board to challenge the Central Service Team, LGB and Academies leaders. We are carrying out a detailed skills audit and we are planning on introducing a more educational specialist. The Trustees in 2023/24 were:

- Andrew Moon - Strategic leadership, governance, Finance & Business HR.
- Marcus Cockcroft - Education Specialist, NPQEL, School Finances, Strategic leadership, school accountability & governance, school vision and ethos, staffing recruitment, change context, teaching and learning.
- Darren Randle - Education Specialist, NPQH, MA, NLE, School Finances, Strategic leadership, school accountability & governance, school vision and ethos, staffing recruitment, change context, teaching and learning.
- Vickie Hutchins - Strategic Leadership, Facilities, Risk Management, community links and HR
- Karen McCarthy - Companies House, Director of own company, Employment Law, Safeguarding, FE, Social Worker/Residential Work, Education Social Work, Educational International Links, Strategic Leadership.
- Jacqui Mellor - Government policies, Ofsted requirements, governance, education, Finance, HR, H&S, teaching schools and safeguarding
- Mark Ogden - Finance (CMA, CGMA & AAT), finance planning and strategies, School Governance, recruitment.
- Catherine Connelly - Education Specialist, NPQEL, School Finances, Strategic leadership, school accountability & governance, school vision and ethos, staffing recruitment, change context, teaching and learning, Primary, Secondary and Pupil Referral Unit Specialist.
- Dave Clarkson – Facilities Management, Building Compliance, PFI, Health and Safety.
- Louise Sweeney – Children’s Services, Safeguarding, SEN and Leadership and Management.

The Trust has rolled out an agenda schedule to LGB's for the next two years with key dates for providing information to the Trust Board. The LGB's post minutes, agendas and papers on to the Trust Team so Trustees have access to all papers. Also, Trustees have been present at a number of LGB meetings throughout the year. The Trust has a Governance & Compliance Manager and who has completed the NGA Governance training to further ensure the Trust and LGB's compliance.

The Finance, Audit and Risk committee is a function of the Trust board and all business is carried out during these meetings. Its purpose is to:

- appoint a Responsible Officer (RO)
- report on findings of RO
- review year end accounts

These were all carried out in the meeting, in December 2023.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Moon	2	3
M Ogden (Chair of FARC)	3	3
V Hutchins	3	3
D Clarkson	2	2

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The CEO 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 CEO 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 CEO for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- To embedding a centralised ICT infrastructure for the Trust, allowing both Academies to access centralised systems. This has seen a cut in costs due to the larger buying power across, software renewals, hardware purchases and the sharing of expertise. We are looking to further develop this with more savings to be made on refresh, software and hardware across the Trust. This will also further protect the Academies from Cyber attacks and give Academies backup on data and internet access. The development of the ICT structure includes a centralised team sharing expertise across the Trust with the appropriate on site provision to deal with IT Support. This infrastructure is built around the expandability of the Trust and immediate savings to be made by joining Academies.
- The use of key metric data (Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning) across the Academies has informed Trustees, LGB and SLT on areas of possible savings and using the DFE Assessment Tool to benchmark our findings against similar schools.
- The Trust continues to grow its cloud based solutions to reduce its footprint and refresh costs.
- Both schools have invested in PC and server refresh which reduces the energy footprint and provides pupils the devices to access required learning resources.
- The Trust funds a FM Manager role to ensure schools provide a safe and best learning environment.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 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 financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Trust board of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed an external independent reviewer to carry out the RO role. The report shows no major risk to the Trust.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On an annual basis, the RO reports to the audit committee/finance committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

Managing conflicts of interest

All Trustees complete an annual declaration of interest form each Autumn term and there is a formalities item at each meeting for Trustees to declare any business interest in relation to the meeting Agenda. This is also common practice at Local Governing Body.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the Headteacher 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 responsible officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Resources Committee/Audit 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 .13/12/24..... and signed on its behalf by:

D Randle
Accounting Officer

A Moon
Chair of Trustees

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Hollingworth Learning 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 terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

D Randle
Accounting Officer

..13/12/24.....

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Hollingworth Learning Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report (including the strategic 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 13/12/24..... and signed on its behalf by:

A Moon
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hollingworth Learning Trust (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 and the Strategic 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 Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or the Strategic Report included within 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 returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 18, the trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the 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.

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

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Education and Skills Funding Agency's Academy Trust Handbook and annual Accounts Direction. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees Report.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education Act 2005 (as amended), Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the group is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business and challenging judgments and estimates.

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

Use of our report

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

John Guest (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Ninth Floor
Landmark, St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

13/12/24

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	as restated £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	29	-	120	149	365
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	5	823	18,304	-	19,127	16,839
Other trading activities	6	223	-	-	223	802
Total		<u>1,075</u>	<u>18,304</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>19,499</u>	<u>18,006</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	534	18,814	7,225	26,573	22,610
Total	7	<u>534</u>	<u>18,814</u>	<u>7,225</u>	<u>26,573</u>	<u>22,610</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		541	(510)	(7,105)	(7,074)	(4,604)
Transfers between funds	16	(232)	284	(52)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit schemes	22	-	(197)	-	(197)	(74)
Net movement in funds		309	(423)	(7,157)	(7,271)	(4,678)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		859	423	27,442	28,724	33,402
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,285</u>	<u>21,453</u>	<u>28,724</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

		2024		2023 as restated	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		20,285		27,442
Current assets					
Debtors	14	372		354	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,335		2,060	
			2,707		2,414
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,539)		(1,132)	
Net current assets			1,168		1,282
Net assets excluding pension asset			21,453		28,724
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	22		-		-
Total net assets			21,453		28,724
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Restricted fixed asset funds			20,285		27,442
- Restricted income funds			-		423
Total restricted funds			20,285		27,865
Unrestricted income funds	16		1,168		859
Total funds			21,453		28,724

The financial statements set out on pages 22 to 47 were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on ...13/12/24..... and are signed on its behalf by:

.....
A Moon
Chair of Trustees

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	19		223		245
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		120		365	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(68)		-	
Net cash provided by investing activities			52		365
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			275		610
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,060		1,450
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,335		2,060

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies

General information

Hollingworth Learning Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 2 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust 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 financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The Academy Trust is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

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

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

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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the 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.

To ensure that Hollingworth Learning Trust is a going concern, five year budget projections to the end of the 2028/29 financial year and monthly finance reports are reviewed regularly. The trust has considerable reserves and cash position to ensure the continuation of the trust in the short term. Going forward the trust is projecting increased pupil numbers year on year, this increase in pupil numbers increases funding from the ESFA and reduces the chances of an in year deficit position.

Income

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

Grants

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

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

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line
Computer equipment	20% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the reporting date, after estimated costs of disposal, for the asset as if it were at the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

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.

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.

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

The Academy Trust has chosen to adopt Sections 11 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Academy Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flow expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and the rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Taxation

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

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'), which are multi-employer 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 projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently there is insufficient information to use defined benefit accounting, it is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

The LGPS is a funded scheme multi-employer scheme, of which the Academy Trust is a sponsoring employer in a number (each scheme exists independently under the LGPS Regulations) as set out in 22, and the assets are held separately. 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 reporting date. The amounts charged to net income are 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 as other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately as other recognised gains and losses.

The LGPS assets are managed by the scheme trustees at scheme level, and the determination/allocation of assets to each individual employer in the scheme is managed by the scheme actuary. The assets are allocated to each employer for accounting purposes based on the valuation of the assets at the latest triennial valuation as adjusted for subsequent contributions received from the employer, asset returns and benefit payments made (either on a cash basis or actuarial basis).

The retirement benefit obligation recognised represents the deficit or surplus in the defined benefit plans. Any surplus resulting from this calculation is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plans or reductions in future contributions to the plans.

Fund accounting

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

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

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

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Defined benefit pension scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension obligation). Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions obligation at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension obligation.

Critical areas of judgement

Local Government Pension Scheme

Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pension Scheme to be included in the asset ceiling in measuring and recognising a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and its inherent implied continuance as well as the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

PFI arrangement

Management are required to make a judgement as to the appropriate accounting treatment and presentation of properties constructed under a PFI arrangement. They do this on a case by case basis with reference to the specific contracts. The considerations include:

- Right to access/ restrictions to use
- Risks and rewards of ownership
- Substance of transaction

As the Trust has the right to the transfer of the buildings on 30 September 2036, the risks and rewards of ownership have transferred and as such the Trust has recognised the assets used under the contracts within tangible fixed assets at its fair value.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

3 Prior period adjustment

A prior period adjustment affected the figures reported for the comparative period for funds and net income or expenditure, as follows.

		1 September 2022 £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Reconciliation of funds	Notes		
Funds as previously reported		33,402	32,603
Adjustments arising:			
Buildings depreciation	1	-	(3,879)
Funds as restated		<u>33,402</u>	<u>28,724</u>
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) for the previous financial period	Notes		2023 £'000
Net expenditure as previously reported			(725)
Adjustments arising:			
Buildings depreciation	1		(3,879)
Net expenditure as restated			<u>(4,604)</u>

Notes to restatement

Buildings depreciation

A portion of the main school building at Newhouse Academy is currently undergoing a demolition process. This was agreed in February 2023 when the contracts were signed. As at this point, the useful economic life should be reassessed and accelerated depreciation posted through the accounts. No such adjustment was processed, therefore a prior period adjustment is required from February 2023 to August 2023 with the remaining amount in 2023/24.

As a result of this, additional depreciation of £3,879,000 has been charged in the prior year against this school building within tangible fixed assets. Therefore, the value of tangible fixed assets has decreased by £3,879,000, and net expenditure for the prior year has decreased by the same value.

The total funds position at 31 August 2023 has decreased from £32,603,000 to £28,724,000; and the net expenditure position has increased from (£725,000) to (£4,604,000).

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

4 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Capital grants	-	120	120	365
Other donations	29	-	29	-
	<u>29</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>365</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £149,000 (2023: £365,000) of which £29,000 was unrestricted (2023: £Nil) and £120,000 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £365,000).

5 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	15,716	15,716	14,593
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	873	873	820
- DfE teaching grants	-	422	422	-
- Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG)	-	542	542	226
- School supplementary grant	-	-	-	357
- Others	-	285	285	429
	<u>-</u>	<u>17,838</u>	<u>17,838</u>	<u>16,425</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	466	466	413
	<u>-</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>413</u>
Other incoming resources	823	-	823	1
	<u>823</u>	<u>18,304</u>	<u>19,127</u>	<u>16,839</u>

The income from funding for educational operations was £19,127,000 (2023: £16,839,000) of which £823,000 was unrestricted (2023: £Nil) and £18,304,000 was restricted (2023: £16,839,000).

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

6 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	38	-	38	37
Catering income	-	-	-	590
Other income	185	-	185	175
	<u>223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>802</u>

The income from other trading activities was £223,000 (2023: £802,000) of which £223,000 was unrestricted (2023: £802,000).

In the current year, catering income has been reclassified from other trading activities above into other incoming resources within income from funding for educational operations (note 5) in line with presentation per Academies Accounts Direction.

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 as restated £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	8,354	-	1,792	10,146	9,376
- Allocated support costs	5,655	9,773	999	16,427	13,234
	<u>14,009</u>	<u>9,773</u>	<u>2,791</u>	<u>26,573</u>	<u>22,610</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £'000	2023 as restated £'000
Operating lease rentals	1,751	1,583
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(123)	(6)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	7,225	4,450
Fees payable to RSM UK Audit LLP and its associates in respect of both audit and non-audit services are as follows:		
- Audit	22	22
- Other services	8	5
- Audit related assurance	4	4

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023 as restated
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	14	10,132	10,146	9,376
Support costs				
Educational operations	520	15,907	16,427	13,234
	<u>534</u>	<u>26,039</u>	<u>26,573</u>	<u>22,610</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £26,573,000 (2023: £22,610,000) of which £534,000 was unrestricted (2023: £452,000), £18,814,000 was restricted (2023: £17,708,000) and £7,225,000 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £4,450,000).

	2024	2023 as restated
	£'000	£'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	5,725	5,283
Depreciation	7,225	4,450
Premises costs	2,548	2,481
Legal costs	147	132
Other support costs	748	841
Governance costs	34	47
	<u>16,427</u>	<u>13,234</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	10,046	9,665
Social security costs	987	923
Pension costs	2,093	2,159
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	13,126	12,747
Agency staff costs	847	479
Staff restructuring costs	36	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff development and other staff costs	176	111
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	14,185	13,354
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments (including special severance payments)	36	17
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Exit payments

The Academy Trust paid 4 exit payments in the year, as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£0 - £25,000	4	2
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-contractual payments totalling £36,166. Individually, the payments were: £1, £8,645, £9,395 and £18,125.

Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	120	126
Administration and support	210	200
Management	22	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	352	348
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

9 Staff (Continued)

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	113	113
Administration and support	111	105
Management	21	22
	<u>245</u>	<u>240</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	11	4
£70,001 - £80,000	2	3
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	2	2
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,968,777 (2023: £1,699,169).

10 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services

The Academy Trust charges for these services based on a flat percentage of income (5% of the General Annual Grant (GAG)). This has been apportioned with reference to the conversion date where applicable.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Hollingworth Academy	448	408
Newhouse Academy	338	293
Hollingworth Learning Trust	-	-
	<u>786</u>	<u>701</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of Chief Executive under their contract of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustee. There are no staff trustees other than the Chief Executive Officer.

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

	2024	2023
D Randle (part time from 2023)		
Remuneration	£55,152	£51,649
Employer's pension contributions	£nil	£nil

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no (2023: 1) trustees claimed expenses or had their expenses met by the Academy Trust. The expenses incurred were in respect of travel and subsistence and an amount of £nil (2023: £205) were reimbursed or paid by the Academy Trust.

12 Trustees and officers' insurance

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

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	33,464	192	21	33,677
Additions	-	68	-	68
At 31 August 2024	33,464	260	21	33,745
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023 (as restated)	6,031	188	16	6,235
Charge for the year	7,214	9	2	7,225
At 31 August 2024	13,245	197	18	13,460
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	20,219	63	3	20,285
At 31 August 2023 (as restated)	27,433	4	5	27,442

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	50	35
VAT recoverable	134	67
Other debtors	2	6
Prepayments and accrued income	186	246
	<u>372</u>	<u>354</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	374	413
Other taxation and social security	234	230
Other creditors	264	2
Accruals	667	487
	<u>1,539</u>	<u>1,132</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 as restated £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	423	15,716	(16,423)	284	-
Pupil premium	-	873	(873)	-	-
DfE teaching grants	-	422	(422)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG)	-	542	(542)	-	-
Other grants	-	285	(285)	-	-
Other government grants	-	466	(466)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	197	(197)	-
	<u>423</u>	<u>18,304</u>	<u>(18,814)</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	24,389	-	(7,169)	-	17,220
DfE group capital grants	831	120	(16)	(52)	883
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,980	-	(36)	-	1,944
Other capital grants	8	-	-	-	8
Amounts transferred from local authority on conversion	234	-	(4)	-	230
	<u>27,442</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>(7,225)</u>	<u>(52)</u>	<u>20,285</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>27,865</u>	<u>18,424</u>	<u>(26,039)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>20,285</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	859	1,075	(534)	(232)	1,168
Total funds	<u>28,724</u>	<u>19,499</u>	<u>(26,573)</u>	<u>(197)</u>	<u>21,453</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

16 Funds (Continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG)

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Pupil premium

Pupil premium must be used to support the cost of raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

DfE teaching grants

DfE teaching grants relate to teachers pay grants and teachers pension employer contribution grants.

Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)

The Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust. This is additional funding for mainstream schools for 2023 and 2024.

Other grants

Other grants include:

- School led tutoring grants is funds received for tutoring intervention to mitigate the disruption to learning arising from COVID-19.
- Other lower level grants and donations received for a particular purpose. Any relevant costs have been offset against this income.
- Other funding have arisen for the furtherance of the Academy Trust's activities that are not funded through the General Annual Grant.

Other government grants

Other government grants include:

- SEN funding which represents grants received in order to provide additional teaching resources for children with special learning needs. The cost of these teaching resources has been set against the income.

Pension reserve

The pension reserve represents the Academy Trust's net asset/liability in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme. This is in deficit as the liabilities on the two schemes exceed assets held. The agreed contribution rates for future years, detailed in note 22, are set to reduce this deficit in the years to come.

Restricted fixed assets

Restricted fixed asset funds include:

- Inherited on conversion relates to the assets transferred from predecessor schools upon joining the Trust. Income relates to the value of assets transferred on schools joining the Trust where the net transfer was recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure relates to depreciation in respect of these assets.
- DfE group capital grants relates to capital grants received during the year including devolved formula capital grants, schools condition allowance and healthy pupils capital fund.
- Capital expenditure from revenue funds includes fixed assets purchased by schools within the Trust following conversion. Expenditure relates to depreciation charged on these assets.
- Other unspent capital grants relates to capital grants received which have not been spent at the year end.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

16 Funds (Continued)

Unrestricted funds

This fund primarily relates to income from lettings and catering.

Transfers

Transfers between funds during the year relate to fixed asset purchases from unrestricted and GAG income, allocation of capital grants and additions between restricted fixed asset funds, and allocation of underspends to other funds in line with the terms of the funding.

Funds prior year (as restated)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	760	14,593	(15,295)	365	423
Pupil premium	-	820	(820)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG)	-	226	(226)	-	-
School supplementary grant	-	357	(357)	-	-
Other grants	-	143	(143)	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	286	(286)	-	-
Other government grants	-	413	(413)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	1	(1)	-	-
Pension reserve	241	-	(167)	(74)	-
	<u>1,001</u>	<u>16,839</u>	<u>(17,708)</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>423</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	28,783	-	(4,394)	-	24,389
DfE group capital grants	847	365	(16)	(365)	831
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,016	-	(36)	-	1,980
Other capital grants	8	-	-	-	8
Amounts transferred from local authority on conversion	238	-	(4)	-	234
	<u>31,892</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>(4,450)</u>	<u>(365)</u>	<u>27,442</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>32,893</u>	<u>17,204</u>	<u>(22,158)</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>27,865</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	509	802	(452)	-	859
Total funds	<u>33,402</u>	<u>18,006</u>	<u>(22,610)</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>28,724</u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

16 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024	2023 as restated
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Hollingworth Academy	225	49
Newhouse Academy	901	1,218
Hollingworth Learning Trust	42	15
	<u>1,168</u>	<u>1,282</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,168	1,282
Restricted fixed asset fund	20,285	27,442
Pension reserve	-	-
	<u>21,453</u>	<u>28,724</u>
Total funds	<u><u>21,453</u></u>	<u><u>28,724</u></u>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Hollingworth Academy	4,476	2,604	745	2,534	10,359	10,366
Newhouse Academy	3,957	2,502	913	835	8,207	7,157
Hollingworth Learning Trust	24	623	29	106	782	636
	<u>8,457</u>	<u>5,729</u>	<u>1,687</u>	<u>3,475</u>	<u>19,348</u>	<u>18,159</u>
	<u><u>8,457</u></u>	<u><u>5,729</u></u>	<u><u>1,687</u></u>	<u><u>3,475</u></u>	<u><u>19,348</u></u>	<u><u>18,159</u></u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,285	20,285
Current assets	1,168	1,539	-	2,707
Current liabilities	-	(1,539)	-	(1,539)
	<u>1,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,285</u>	<u>21,453</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>1,168</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>20,285</u></u>	<u><u>21,453</u></u>

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds:		Total Funds
		General	Fixed asset as restated	as restated
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	27,442	27,442
Current assets	858	1,556	-	2,414
Current liabilities	1	(1,133)	-	(1,132)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total net assets	859	423	27,442	28,724
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

18 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	23	30
Amounts due between one and five years	22	45
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	45	75
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Other contractual commitments

At 31 August 2024, the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	907	907
Amounts due between one and five years	3,629	3,629
Amounts due after five years	6,351	7,258
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	10,887	11,794
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

19	Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities	Notes	2024	2023
			£'000	as restated £'000
	Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(7,074)	(4,604)
	Adjusted for:			
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	4	(120)	(365)
	Pension costs less contributions payable	22	(74)	173
	Pension scheme finance income	22	(123)	(6)
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	13	7,225	4,450
	Movements in working capital:			
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(18)	72
	Increase in creditors		407	525
	Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>223</u>	<u>245</u>
20	Analysis of changes in net funds			
		1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
	Cash	2,060	275	2,335

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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £262,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £nil) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out below the information available on the scheme.

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 2023 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI) (this change has had the greatest financial significance)

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 1 April 2028 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,346,000 (2023: £1,243,000).

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £855,000 (2023: £804,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £647,000 (2023: £615,000) and employees' contributions totalled £208,000 (2023: £189,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.5% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Employer's contributions	647	615
Employees' contributions	208	189
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	855	804
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Principal actuarial assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 August 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	5.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.0	18.9
- Females	23.3	23.2
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.1	21.8
- Females	24.8	24.7
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HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £'000	2023 Fair value £'000
Equities	10,200	9,050
Bonds	2,217	1,810
Cash	1,182	1,034
Property	1,182	1,034
Total fair value of assets	14,781	12,928

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,239,000 (2023: £(1,387,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	573	788
Net interest cost	(123)	(6)
Total amount recognised	450	782

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2023	10,601
Current service cost	573
Interest cost	565
Employee contributions	208
Actuarial gain	(90)
Benefits paid	(241)
At 31 August 2024	11,616

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2023	12,928
Interest income	688
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	551
Employer contributions	647
Employee contributions	208
Benefits paid	(241)
At 31 August 2024	14,781

HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Net asset restriction

	2024 £'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(11,616)
Fair value of plan assets	14,781
	<hr/>
Net asset	3,165
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(3,165)
	<hr/>
Net liability recognised in the balance sheet	-
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The value of the Academy Trust's share of net assets of the LGPS scheme has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

The Academy Trust is aware that the Court of Appeal has recently upheld the decision in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited case. The decision puts into question the validity of any amendments made in respect of the rules of a contracted-out pension scheme between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. The judgment means that some historic amendments affecting s.9(2B) rights could be void if the necessary actuarial confirmation under s.37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not obtained. Until further investigations have been completed by the UK Government's Actuary's Department and/or any legislative action taken by the government, the potential impact if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

23 Related party transactions

All transactions involving related parties or connected parties are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures, unless otherwise stated.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

Key management personnel disclosure is included in note 8.

24 Post balance sheet events

Heap Bridge Primary School is expected to join the Academy Trust in the next financial year. The estimated date of conversion is currently 1 November 2024.

After the year end, on 2 September 2024, the DfE transferred a new building for Newhouse Academy to the Academy Trust.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 January 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Hollingworth Learning 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.

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 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the FRC's Ethical Standard and the ethical pronouncements of the ICAEW. We also apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements and accordingly maintain comprehensive systems of continuing quality management. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of Hollingworth Learning Trust's accounting officer and trustees

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Hollingworth Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 September 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of Hollingworth Learning Trust and appointment of the accounting officer.

Reporting Accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

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 the procedures vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

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.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO HOLLINGWORTH LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academy Trust Handbook 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a material risk of irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to Hollingworth Learning Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 January 2023. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Hollingworth Learning Trust and the 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 Hollingworth Learning Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

Chartered accountants
Ninth Floor
Landmark, St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

Dated: ..13/12/24.....
