

Company registration number 10872612 (England and Wales)

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Liam Cowell
Helen Jones
Christopher Gray
Graham Whitham – appointed 06/07/23
Jane Durkin – resigned 01/04/23

Trustees

Mark Brookfield
Jennifer Collinson (Chair)
Amanda Edwards
Beverley Ridyard
Ben Ramm
Iain Ashworth
Oliva Clayton
Roger Griffiths
Hannah Holmes
Ian Pickup
Helen Jones – resigned 14/07/23
Sharon Handley – appointed 24/04/23

Senior management team

- CEO, Accounting Officer & Executive Head
Grange School, Piper Hill, Prospect House
and Pioneer House Linda Jones
- Executive Head, Chorlton High School,
Andy Park
CHS South
- Executive Head, MEA, MEA Central Dave Bell
- Chief Operating Officer Rachael Lees
- Head Teacher, Chorlton High School Zoe Morris
- Head Teacher, CHS South David Prophet
- Head Teacher, Grange School Rachael Clifford
- Head Teacher, Pioneer House High School Adele Cox
- Head Teacher, Piper Hill High School Louise Lynn
- Head Teacher, MEA Kyra Jones
- Head Teacher, MEA Central Emily Reynard
- Head Teacher, Prospect House Tracy Gallier

Company registration number 10872612 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office Piper Hill High School, Firbank Road, Manchester M23 2YS

Academies operated	Location	Principal
MEA Central	Lytham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6PL	Emily Reynard
Manchester Enterprise Academy	Simonsway, Wythenshawe, M22 9RH	Kyra Jones
Grange School	Matthews Lane, Gorton, Manchester M12 4GR	Rachael Clifford
CHS South	Lowry House, 550 Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 7AA	David Prophet
Chorlton High School	Nell Lane, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 7SL	Zoe Morris
Piper Hill High School	Firbank Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe Manchester, M23 2YS	Louise Lynn
Pioneer House High School	200 Yew Tree Lane, Northern Moor, Manchester, M23 0FF	Adele Cox
Prospect House Primary Specialist Support	Bank House Road, Higher Blackley, M9 8LT	Tracy Gallier

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)

Independent auditor DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited
Bridge House
Ashley Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2HT

Bankers Lloyds Bank Plc
4th Floor
25 Gresham Street London
EC2V 7HN

Solicitors Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP
Narrow Quay House
Narrow Quay
Bristol
BS1 4QA

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates four mainstream high schools and four special schools - two are special high schools, one is a primary special school and the other an all age special school (3-19).

Below is a summary of the Trust's profile pupil profile and self-evaluation:

Measure	CHS	South	MEA	Central	Grange	Pioneer	Piper H	Prospect	Trust	
On Roll	1518	975	1261	1068	250	130	259	87	5548	100.0%
Female	43.8%	43.4%	47.5%	40.3%	19.2%	33.8%	32.0%	25.3%	2314	41.7%
Male	56.2%	56.6%	52.5%	59.7%	80.8%	66.2%	68.0%	74.7%	3234	58.3%
SEN	24.3%	13.3%	23.5%	15.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1684	30.4%
EAL	25.0%	30.4%	16.6%	53.2%	35.2%	13.1%	31.7%	28.7%	1664	30.0%
PP / Disad	30.8%	49.5%	63.1%	47.2%	66.4%	69.2%	61.8%	52.9%	2712	48.9%
FSM	26.9%	47.4%	59.8%	44.5%	65.2%	65.4%	57.1%	51.7%	2541	45.8%
LAC	13	7	15	9	1	3	7	1	56	1.0%
CP	1	8	7	2	0	0	6	0	24	0.4%
CIN	8	13	18	16	23	5	51	5	139	2.5%
EH	9	16	7	5	4	3	22	3	69	1.2%

Self Evaluation	CHS	South	MEA	Central	Grange	Pioneer	Piper H	Prospect
Quality of Education	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Behaviour and Attitudes	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Leadership and Management	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Personal Development	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
6th Form	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	N/A
Ofsted								
Judgement	2	2	2	2	N/A	1	1	N/A
Date of last visit	Oct-21	Jan-23	Sep-21	Feb-22	N/A	Jun-19	Jan-18	N/A
Next inspection before	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26	2025/26	Jul-24	Sep-25	Jul-24	Jul-23

Key:

1 - Outstanding

2 - Good

NB- Prospect House Ofsted Outstanding- report published September 2023

	NOR 22-23	PAN
Chorlton High School	1,525	1,530
CHS South	1,027	1,050
Manchester Enterprise Academy	1,236	1,260
MEA Central	1,053	1,050
Grange	262	220
Pioneer House	141	117
Piper Hill	227	240
Prospect House	124	100
Total	5,595	5,567

Pioneer's PAN will increase next year to 140 due to building expansion.

Prospect House's PAN will increase to 150 due to capacity in build size

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 Prospere Learning Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the period, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Trade Union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulation 2017, Prospere Learning Trust is obliged, as an employer of sufficient size, to report information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations in relation to the:

- Number of FTE employees who were relevant union officials under the
- Percentage of time spent by relevant union officials on union facility time
- Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time
- Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid union facility time hours

The Trust did not employ any relevant union officials engaged on Trade Union facility during the year ended 31 August 2022 and as such incurred no direct cost for this activity. The Trust is however committed to contributing to costs associated with trade union facility time and has opted to make payments into the Local Authority Trade Union. The total costs paid to the Local Authority Trade Union during the year was £25k.

The Trust has also signed up to a Trade Union Recognition Agreement with the unions representing Trust employees, namely ASCL, GMB, NEU, NASUWT, NAHT and Unison.

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 through its articles has indemnified its Trustees, Governors and Officers to the fullest extent permissible by law. Professional indemnity insurance is in place to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on Trust business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 17 Trustees.

Various recruitment methods are used by the Academy Trust dependent on the skills mix of the current Board. The Trust recruits Trustees and Governors through Governors for Schools and Academy Ambassadors and will seek to fill vacancies dependent on the skill gap on the current board.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Prospective Trustees are interviewed and selected for the Board through a rigorous process. Once appointed, Trustees are fully inducted into the business of the Trust to provide a clear understanding of their role and responsibility as a Trustee along with understanding of the detailed policies and procedures underpinning the Trust's governance arrangements.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

All new Trustees are encouraged to attend a new Trustee/Governor induction training as well as other training courses offered by internal and external providers. The Trust has a Service Level Agreement in place with One Education Governor Support to provide additional Governor training to complement the training package offered by the Trust. The SLA also provides support throughout the year. In addition, the Trust organises regular Chairs' Briefings for LGBs across the year. The Academy Trust has a subscription to 'The Key' national information and support service for Trustees, Governors and School Leaders. All Trustees have individual access to the services.

Organisational structure

The Trustees have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Trust, including the establishing and running of schools. The Trustees are responsible for:

- setting general policy, the strategic direction and development of the Trust
- adopting an annual plan and budget
- monitoring the performance of the Trust and member schools using financial management and other performance indicators
- making appointments to the position of Executive Headteacher and Headteacher
- approving the Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Trustees delegate responsibilities to the Local Governing Body (LGB) of each member school according to a specific Scheme of Delegation appropriate to the context of the school. The constitution, membership and proceedings of the Local Governing Body is determined by the Trustees. The Trustees have the power to direct change where required.

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of each school can establish committees of Governors or identify lead Governors to deal with specific areas of responsibility in line with the Trust Scheme of Delegation. The establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of any committee of the Governors or nomination of lead Governors is reviewed at least once every twelve months. Any power or function of the Governors exercised by any committee, any named Governor, the Headteacher or other senior leader in line with the Scheme of Delegation is reported to the Governors at the next full Local Governing Body meeting.

The Trustees delegate responsibility to the Risk & Audit Committee for directing the internal audit resource commissioned by the Trust.

The Trustees delegate responsibility to the Resources and Finance Committee for Finance, IT, Catering, Human Resource (HR) and Estates matters.

The Trust delegates responsibility for monitoring Educational standards to the Standards Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer of the Trust and has overall responsibility for running of the Trust, reporting into the Chair of the Trust Board. The day to day leadership and management of the Trust is delegated between the CEO and the Executive Headteachers, who have allocated groups of schools. They work alongside the school Headteachers to ensure that member schools are effectively led and managed. The Executive Headteachers report into the CEO.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the school, led by the Headteacher, controls the school at an executive level and is responsible for the day to day leadership of the school, implementing the policies and procedures agreed by the Trustees and Governors and reporting back to them.

The roles and responsibilities of Trustees, Governors, Senior Leaders and wider leadership posts are clearly defined in the Trust Scheme of Delegation. Members meet at least three times per year. The Trustees meet at least seven times a year, once per half term with an additional meeting at the start of the Academic Year, along with further additional meetings as required. The Finance and Resources Committee meets at least six times a year. Local Governing Bodies meet on at least a termly basis and the Risk and Audit Committee meets four times a year.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration for the Executive Management Team, Headteachers and other Trust Leadership staff is set in accordance with the Trust Pay Policy. Thorough and rigorous performance management of executive and senior leaders takes place on an annual basis. The Trust Pay Committee reviews recommendations for pay progression and other remuneration. The Trust Pay Committee is made up of three Trustees and meets at least once a year. Headteacher and school leadership posts are benchmarked using the standard Individual School Ranges (ISR's) produced by the School Teachers Review Body.

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

Trust schools are members of the Manchester School's Alliance, a wider network of schools and academies across the city. Leaders from the schools maintain active relationships with their peers in other schools and academies through this collaborative as well as being actively involved in a range of working parties and development groups across the city involving other partner organisations. Senior Leaders engage actively across the Local Authority through several forums, including the School's Funding Forum and the Secondary Behaviour Partnerships.

The Trust is a member of the Confederation of School Trusts (CST), which provides support to Executive and Governance leaders in school Trusts.

Trust Academies have strong partnerships with Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University and Cumbria University, Bright Futures.

The schools also have some contractual arrangements with the LA, such as the energy management SLA and payroll SLA. Lloyds Bank plc provides the Trust's banking services.

Trust Academies have close working relationships with many of their partner primary schools and have developed a number of transition activities to support these relationships and the effective transition of students into Year 7.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

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

Engagement with employees

The Trust consults its staff through formal and informal methods including staff consultation committees and regular staff meetings. The aim of this is to actively encourage involvement by employees in the trust's performance, and to make employees aware of common factors affecting the performance of the trust. The Prospere Learning Trust provides staff with access to all Trust policies through access to a staff specific portal.

The Trust consults with National Trade Union bodies through the Joint Consultation and Negotiation Committee (JCNC), meeting a minimum of three times per year. The Trust recognises the following Trade Unions for individual and collective representation, consultation and negotiation purposes: NEU, NASUWT, NAHT, ASCL, GMB and UNISON. This provides an opportunity for any feedback from school representatives to be communicated to the Trust and for any significant organisational changes to be discussed with unions.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that existing members of staff, job applicants, workers and volunteers are treated fairly in an environment which is free from any form of discrimination with regard to the protected characteristics as outlined by the Equality Act 2010. The Trust's Recruitment and Selection and Equality and Diversity Policies outlines the approach to this issue and specific reference is made within this guidance to job applicants.

Applications from candidates with disabilities are welcomed. A statement confirming this and asking applicants to advise on any reasonable adjustment needed through the recruitment and selection process is included in correspondence with applicants. Should an employee become disabled after having been employed, any reasonable adjustments needed will be made. All staff, when they have been appointed, are asked to undertake a pre-employment medical questionnaire. This process is managed by occupational health specialists and provides information and advice to the employer to ensure reasonable adjustments can be put in place where appropriate.

Equalities data is collected with respect to Teacher Pay Progression in order to identify whether or not the data indicates that employees with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust

As a key enabler to meeting the objectives of the Prosperere Learning Trust, the Trustees continue to seek every opportunity to engage actively and positively with all stakeholders in the local community of each academy and in the wider educational landscape. Collaborative relationships with suppliers, parents, educational partners and community leaders are seen as key enablers to achieving success in all of the Trust's operation. During the year the Trust has further promoted this engagement through specific initiatives including:

- Regular communication and engagement with parents and prospective parents of pupils attending the Trust schools to enhance the understanding of the provision to each student and to fully co-ordinate support to students from parents and the academy.
- Engagement with other educational trusts and partners at local and national levels to share best practice and to provide peer support across trusts and individual academies.
- Active dialogues with local councils on matters which impact children and families in the community as well as relate to operation of each academy.
- Engaging with local businesses to promote career and educational opportunities for academy students for their mutual benefit.
- Seeking all possible opportunities to engage with local suppliers in each academy area.
- Seeking regular communication with all suppliers and ensuring good commercial practices of prompt payment and clear communication to optimise arrangements for supply of goods and services to each school.
- Promoting and encouraging student opportunities to engage in local voluntary and other projects to support the community.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Our objectives as set out in the Articles of Association are:

- To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum (the mainstream Academies) or educational institutions are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the 16 to 19 Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational needs (the Special Academies) and
- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated 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 interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has entered into relevant funding agreements with each Academy with the Secretary of State for Education. The funding agreements specify, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academy, the catchment area from which the students are drawn and that the curriculum should be broad and balanced.

The Charitable Company has a number of performance indicators, some financial, others related to the educational outcome for the pupils.

The key indicators are:

1. All schools to improve their academic performance within the year.
2. All schools to improve pupil attendance within the year and to reduce incidences of suspension and exclusion.
3. All school to recruit and retain high quality staff, including high quality trainee teachers.
4. All staff to receive high quality professional development.
5. To achieve a balanced in year budget (utilising reserves where necessary and agreed in advance).

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We aim for the overall performance of our schools to be reflected in positive inspection judgements, with all our schools removed from categories within appropriate Ofsted timeframes and on track to be judged at least 'good'

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main work streams for the Trust for 2022-23 were as below:

Leadership and Management:

1. Prospere vision and ethos - to raise awareness amongst all stakeholders
2. Well-being strategy - ensure a well planned approach to staff and student wellbeing
3. Community of belonging-ensure the organization is innovative in it's approach to inclusivity and education

Curriculum:

1. Quality of Education – to continue to develop a common language and understanding of high quality teaching, learning and assessment across the Trust. This will be evidence informed, based on the Great Teaching Toolkit developed by Cambridge International

Business Opportunities:

1. Central services – to continue to develop the model for our central services so that is effective and efficient, will be sustainable and able to adapt to growth for the key strands of Finance, Estates, HR, ICT and Catering

Quality Assurance (QA):

1. To continue to define common metrics for both special and mainstream schools and common systems of QA, based on a robust, well defined QA system. To use newly developed scorecards with key metrics for trust wide analysis
2. To support our schools when audits / QA highlight areas for improvement particularly focussing on literacy, the development of teachers and other staff and SEND

Workforce Development:

1. Ensure systems are in place to enable us to know our workforce
2. Ensure our systems and procedures enable a consistent service delivery
3. Focus on recruiting, retaining and developing our workforce and develop a Trust People strategy

Vulnerable Learners

1. Continue to develop the process to identify early student needs in mainstream schools and ensure the appropriate offer for each student

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in reviewing the objectives and setting future priorities. The Trustees feel that the Trust is clearly providing a public benefit through the provision of high quality education to its students and through the hire of Trust facilities to the local community.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

- Improvement continues at all Trust schools and is monitored through a robust shared Quality Assurance programme. All schools continue to improve from their starting points in 2022.

General

- Outcomes for young people across the Trust, in terms of progress they are making from KS2 to KS4, are strong and continue to improve.
- The collaborative working across Trust Schools in a formal manner using the strengths in existing schools to ensure an effective School Improvement Strategy, particularly focusing around developing literacy and oracy skills, highly effective SEN strategies and high-quality teaching, raising the achievement of disadvantaged learners, and our community of belonging focus has developed a well- defined strategy. An effective performance management process and the development of a collaborative approach to accountability has ensured that key leaders across schools in the Trust are taking a shared responsibility for standards across all schools within the Trust.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Mainstream

- The outcomes for Chorlton High School (CHS) continue to be very strong and they are recognised as one of the top performing schools in the City in terms of exam results.
- MEA continues to perform as predicted. MEA's 2021 Ofsted judged that the school continues to be 'Good'.
- External Quality Assurance continues to recognise the excellence of the provision at MEA Central. Their outcomes are also very strong. The 2022 Ofsted recognised MEA Central as a very strong school with a number of areas of outstanding practice.
- CHS South has completed a successful fifth year of operation, as recognised by a range of external Quality Assurance processes and Ofsted in 2023 which recognized the school as a good school. Outcomes were very pleasing.
- At Grange School improvement and innovation continues to be seen and is reported regularly through independent Quality Assurance reviews. The school has had significant robust external quality assurance and is self evaluating as outstanding in all areas.
- Pioneer House school continues to have very strong performance and is self evaluating as outstanding. Piper Hill has very strong performance and the school has had significant robust external quality assurance and is self evaluating as outstanding in all areas.
- Prospect House School has had a positive third year and performance is strong, with the school self evaluating as outstanding. The Ofsted visit which took place in July 2023 confirmed the School as Outstanding.
- The special schools use a range of benchmarking activities and external audits to ensure current evaluations are accurate. These include a range of financial benchmarks, curriculum led financial planning, attendance data for staff and pupils, external accreditation and a range of external moderation activities on progress data. External Quality Assurance is undertaken for all areas of the Education Inspection framework. In addition, benchmarking takes place for wellbeing and mental health activities.

Promoting the success of the charitable company

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires the Trustees 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 decisions 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 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.

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 focused 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.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Further details of our engagement with employees, beneficiaries, and stakeholders can be found on page 7.

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 Prosper Learning Trust and its constituent schools 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: -

We aim to be a fully inclusive organisation and will treat all members of the company equally, and all members have access to the same information and contacts within the Trust.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charitable Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charitable Company, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Financial review

The Trust's incoming resources for the year amounted to £60m (2022: £66m). The most significant source of income relates to ESFA and other local authority pupil funding of £55.1m (2022: £48.7m). Outgoing resources for the year totalled £60.2m (2022: £56.5m) resulting in an overall decrease in funds of £0.2m (2022: £39m increase).

Total reserves as at 31 August 2023 stood at £182.4m (2022: £185.1m). Unrestricted reserves stood at £0.7m (2022: £2.3m), restricted general funds stood at £6.9m (2022: £9.3m) and restricted fixed asset funds stood at £174.7m (2022: £173.5m). Cash balances held by the Trust at 31 August 2023 amount to £10.4m (2022: £11m). Net current assets decreased by £0.9m.

The surplus of revenue income over revenue expenditure (net deficit on funds of £0.2m, adjusted to exclude depreciation, capital income, capital expenditure and adjustments for the LGPS) is a £1m deficit (2022: £2.9m surplus). This is made up of an in-year surplus on revenue funds of £1.2m with a £2.2m transfer from revenue reserves to capital funds for planned capital expenditure.

When considering the Trust's underlying revenue reserves position at 31 August 2022, removing the impact of movements in pension schemes, the Trust held revenue reserves of £7.6m (2022: £8.7m) as at 31 August 2023.

The movement on the LGPS scheme shows an decrease of £2.9m (2022: £24.7m increase) on the asset to a liability balance of £0.02m (2022: £2.9m asset).

Going concern

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

In coming to this view the Trustees have considered the following:

The Trust is carrying healthy revenue reserves of £7.6m, cashflow is strong and stable and there are no concerns over liquidity.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Numbers on Roll (NOR) against the Planned Admissions Number (PAN) are shown on page 3 and demonstrate that the Trust is almost at capacity. The Trust also still has further growth to come from Prospect House and Pioneer House. In terms of the individual schools, NOR remains stable and strong across the Trust:

- Chorlton High School continues to be a school of choice within Chorlton and in line with Manchester City Council projections, the school is confident that the PAN will continue to be achieved.
- MEA and MEA Central both have strong pupil recruitment trends and future projections show this is expected to continue.
- CHS South has recruited effectively for 2023. The school has also developed excellent relationships with local primary schools and as such, the school is confident that numbers will continue to grow thus ensuring the financial viability of the school.
- Within the Special Schools, demand for these places across the city and from surrounding boroughs, remains extremely high. We are confident that the schools will continue to meet pupil number targets and indeed the key risk is the ability of the schools to meet demand. Piper Hill has continued to increase pupil numbers in the post 16 provision, Pioneer House is also increasing numbers in September 2023 through a capital grant funded scheme to increase building size. Grange School joined the Trust in May 2019 and the educational offer is now very strong, with pupil numbers having increased. The new free special primary school Prospect House opened successfully on its new site in June 2022.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Given the nature of the multi-academy trust, and that the financial instruments dealt with by the Trust are largely bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade and other debtors, information on financial and risk management objectives and policies is not considered by the Trustees to be material to the assessment of the Trust's assets, liabilities financial position and its results and therefore detailed disclosure has not been given.

Reserves Policy

The Trust's fund are allocated to individual schools within the Trust, excluding the restricted fixed asset fund and the pension reserve.

The Trust has an approved Reserves and Investment Policy in place. The policy contains the parameters within which schools must operate, and takes into consideration three year forecasts, financial risk and future plans. The Trustees have agreed that it is prudent to hold a certain level of reserves to support the Schools following any sudden decreases in income or increase in costs, whilst ensuring this is balanced with the need to utilise funds for the benefit of current pupils. Schools are required to hold a minimum reserve level of 5% of annual income, assessed on an annual basis taking into account the revenue and capital requirements for that year. Of this, 2% is to manage the operational, day to day revenue risks and 3% is a strategic reserve for capital projects.

The Trust's overall reserves position as at 31 August 2023 is £182.4m. The Trust's underlying reserves position as at 31 August 2023, removing the impact of movements in the pension scheme and the fixed assets held by the Trust, is £7.6m (2022: £8.6m). Based on total revenue income of £56.4m, this is significantly higher than the minimum level.

Investment policy

The Trustees have also approved an Investment Policy which will enable the Trust to make good use of surplus funds, whilst maintaining adequate account balances to meet cash flow fluctuations. The principal consideration is the minimisation of risk. This policy was implemented in 21-22, and allows surplus balances to be deposited with other banking institutions who meet the required credit rating, and for a maximum fixed term of 6 months.

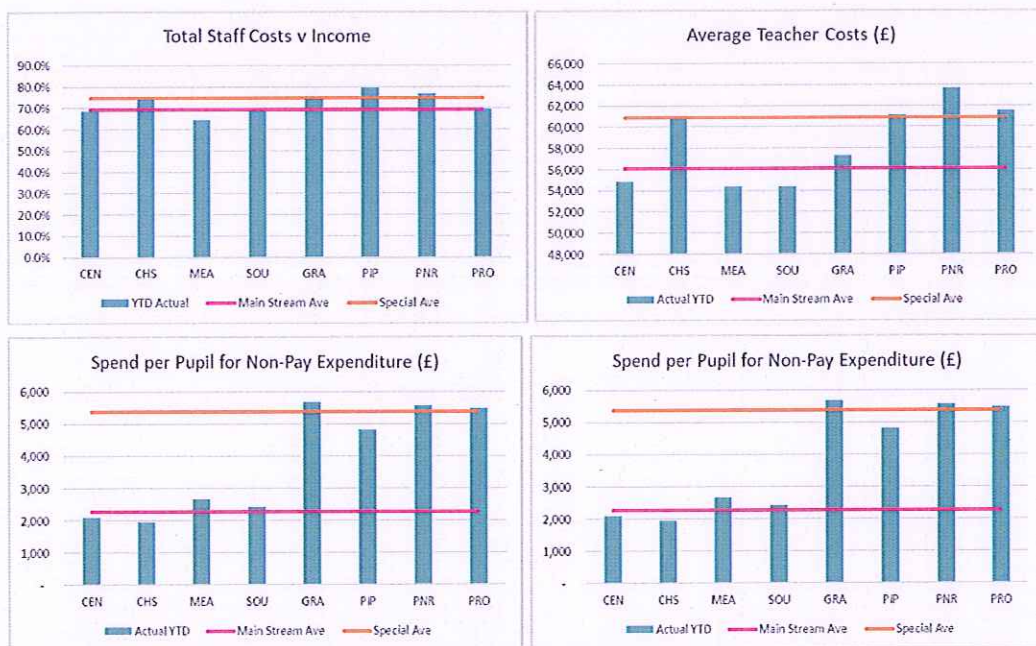
PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key Performance Indicators

The Trust has identified four main financial KPI's and these are reported on a monthly basis via the financial scorecard in the management accounts. The Trust also takes in to consideration external benchmarking sources that are available, such as the DfE 'View my Financial Insights' tool. The charts below represent the data from the Period 12 Management Accounts for 2022-23. The Special schools are benchmarked against the average for those four schools, and the Mainstream schools are benchmarked against the average for those four schools to identify any outliers which may need further review. Over the course of the year, KPI's have been in line with Trust expectations, where outliers have arisen the Trust has a clear understanding of the reasons behind the data.



Trustees have a number of effective measures of performance across schools in the Trust. These include pupil outcomes, attendance measures against national benchmarked averages, how effective safeguarding is, the quality of education, measurements of the quality of teaching in each school, staff attendance and recruitment, and a range of assessments of pupil performance in KS3. These indicators are reported upon regularly at LGBs and also at Trust level and improvement actions are outlined if necessary. A range of high quality external Quality Assurance is commissioned by the Trust to monitor performance for each school against the above key performance indicators.

Trust staff survey 2023

The annual staff survey was completed in the summer term with participation at 62%. The results as a Trust and for each school were overall very positive.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trust Staff Survey 2023 Initial Findings



Q2. I am aware of the Trust values



Provisional outcomes for KS4 are shown below.

September 2023 information

Chorlton High School Headline results

Measure	2023	2022	2019
9 – 7 basics	17.4%	26.3%	17.1%
9 – 5 basics	61%	64%	53%
9 – 4 basics	76%	79%	70.4%
EBacc APS	4.77	4.90	4.56
EBacc Strong Pass (9 – 5)	24.7	31%	29.3%
Ebacc Standard Pass (9 – 4)	39.5	40%	38.8%
Attainment 8	51.4	53.2	49.57

CHS South Headline results:

Measure	2023
9 – 7 basics	13.1%
9 – 5 basics	46%
9 – 4 basics	66%
EBacc APS	4.15
EBacc Strong Pass (9 – 5)	14%
Ebacc Standard Pass (9 – 4)	24%
Attainment 8	44.98

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

MEA Central

Headline results:

Measure	2023	2022
9 – 7 basics	11.5%	15.4%
9 – 5 basics	48.8%	58.4%
9 – 4 basics	73.7%	78.0%
Average Point Score (APS)	4.7	5.24
EBac APS	4.22	4.85
EBac Strong Pass (9 – 5)	23.4%	34.0%
Ebac Standard Pass (9 – 4)	33.5%	48.8%

MEA

Headline results:

Measure	2023	2022	2019
9 – 7 basics	4.1%	6.3%	6%
9 – 5 basics	22.4%	30.5%	22%
9 – 4 basics	42.3%	47.7%	45%
Average Point Score (APS)	35.7	38.01	38.0
EBac APS	2.95	3.04	3.37
EBac Strong Pass (9 – 5)	6.5%	12.0%	12%
Ebac Standard Pass (9 – 4)	10.5%	21.1%	21%

Overall, the Trustees are satisfied that improvement continues at all Trust schools, and that collaborative working across the Trust is helping to best utilise the strengths found therein.

Plans for future periods

In order to support the Trust, at both its current stage of development and through the next few years of growth, the centralised model for business support services provides a consistent model across the Trust.

The model ensures we have expert and professional staff delivering a range of support services which allow Headteachers and staff to focus on delivering the best possible educational provision for students.

Finance, IT, HR, Catering and Estates have developed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with schools clearly setting out how processes and activities will be managed by the central teams and at school level. These have been developed and refined over the past year.

The high-level strategic objectives for 2023-24 are under the headings of Leadership and Management, Quality of Education and MAT Central teams along with their corresponding Trust Committee accountability. Each area has its own high level improvement plan which is monitored and challenged regularly by the allocated Committee. For the Quality of Education this is then developed at school level as part of individual School Improvement plans, with a focus on evidence-informed approaches.

There is a continued focus on:

The efficiency and effectiveness of the central teams, and all aspects of compliance

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The School improvement strategy across the Trust with the following areas of focus:

Tier one areas:

1. Quality of Education
2. Learning Behaviours
3. Literacy
4. SEND
5. Numeracy

Tier two areas (expected to be embedded with schools' own improvement plans):

1. Community of Belonging
2. Wellbeing
3. Sustainability

The Trust pupil premium strategy will link in with all of the above areas and a review for the development of the strategy is currently underway.

- We will continue to work in collaboration with our Local Authorities and support their ambitions for children and young people. Maintaining a positive relationship with the Local Authorities is a key area of our overall approach to the development of the MAT and has been central to decisions made about expansion, for example, free school bids.
- Primary Schools - the Trust would welcome primary schools with a view to creating a 3-18 pathway for learners that builds on good primary learning and provides a seamless progression into Key Stage 3.
- Free Schools - based on four successful applications (CHS South, Pioneer House, Prospect House and Pear Tree) to open new schools through the Government's Free School programme, we will continue to respond to opportunities to expand through this route. A focus will be on the opening and the development of Pear Tree 2023. In addition the Trust was awarded the Miles Platting Specialist Support High School in the Manchester LA free school presumption which is due to open in September 2024.
- Alternative Provision - our work in Trust schools to date has increased awareness of the need for high quality alternative provision pathways both within the Trust and externally.

As the MAT develops and grows, we will continue to develop and strengthen our governance. The Trust will achieve this by:

- Establishing strong LGBs and ensuring that the Scheme of Delegation responsibilities are fully understood
- Ensuring the Trust values are well understood by all relevant parties
- Quality Assurance Systems and Reports are acted upon
- Statutory Policies are reviewed regularly and compliantly and published
- Strengthening the role of the Senior Leadership Team in making operational decisions

Maintaining financial strength:

- Embed guidance and challenge mechanisms for strategic financial and workforce planning
- Update financial planning assumptions throughout the year in order to respond promptly to
- Continue to develop the Capital programme underpinned by strategies for ICT and Estates
- Progress with the Procurement strategy in order to continue to drive centralised procurement processes, maximising value for money and ensuring compliance

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust Board is responsible for the management of the risks faced by the Trust. The Risk and Audit Committee established by the Trust will monitor the risks to the Trust. The major risks to which the Trust is exposed have been identified on the Trust Risk Register. Consideration of the risks is undertaken by Trustees. The Trustees ensure that the Senior Leadership Team actively manage risks and report progress through the appropriate governing boards and that risks will be identified, assessed and controls established on an ongoing basis.

Key risks currently facing the organisation are:

- Financial risks associated with increased inflation and energy costs, and pay awards which are only partially funded
- Ensuring that all schools in the Trust maintain strong outcomes
- Retention of staff and successful filling of vacancies given the challenges around Teacher recruitment

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Through the risk management process established by the Trust, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks have been identified and will be adequately mitigated where appropriate.

The main controls used by the Trust are:

- Formal agenda for all Trust Board, Committee and LGB meetings
- Detailed and comprehensive terms of reference for all governance meetings
- Written scheme of delegation
- Comprehensive strategic planning and budgeting cycle
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting
- Clear authorisation and approval levels

Fundraising

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

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data:

	2023	2022
<i>Energy consumption</i>	kWh	kWh
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	5,116,446	4,378,403
- Fuel consumed for transport	73,771	47,427
- Electricity purchased	3,343,499	3,401,266
	<u>8,553,716</u>	<u>7,827,096</u>
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>	2023	2022
	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	937.13	801.95
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	12.81	10.07
	<u>949.94</u>	<u>812.02</u>
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	646.57	722.19
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the Academy Trust	4.69	1.14
	<u>1,601.20</u>	<u>1,535.35</u>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.291	0.30
	<u>0.291</u>	<u>0.30</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2022 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol Corporate Standard and have used the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (due to majority of usage falling within the 2021 guideline reporting period April 2021 - March 2023).

Intensity Measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The steps taken to improve energy efficiency during the period include:

- The continued appointment of the local authority energy team as energy consultants and to assist the schools with the investigation and delivery of improved reporting and sustainability projects
- Lighting in all schools across the Trust has been upgraded to LED. The works commenced in August 2022 and was completed in May 2023.
- Sensor control lighting upgrades will be completed by the 31 October 2023.
- The lighting around the all-weather pitch at Chorlton High School has been upgraded to LED. The Trust is looking to relocate this at its other schools.
- A Building Management System (BMS) has now been installed at Chorlton High School. All schools in the Trust are now BMS controlled.
- Controls introduced to manage electricity dependent services outside of school term time e.g. zip boilers.

Further energy saving measures being investigated:

- The sub-metering of energy at the Trust Piper Hill premises
- All weather pitch lighting to LED and time operated switches at other schools in the Trust to be investigated
- The use of photovoltaic panels and electric car charging points

Compatibility to previous years

- Student numbers have changed fairly markedly, with 5,506 in this report compared to 5,176 in 2021-22 report (an increase of 6.38%).
- Electricity demand has decreased from 3,401,266 kwh to 3,343,499 kwh (-1.7%).
- Gas demand has increased from 4,378,403 kwh to 5,116,446 kwh (16.86%)
- Heating degree days increased from 1,899 to 1,927 from 2021-22 to 2022-23, meaning a slightly colder year by 1.47%.
- Transport use uplifted fairly significantly from 47,427 kwh to 73,771kwh (55.54%) but is likely explained by the increase in movement following the full ending of most covid restrictions, which probably somewhat distorted the previous figures.
- Overall emissions rose from 1,538.85 tco₂e to 1,601.47 (4.07%) but with an decrease in the intensity ratio from 0.297 to 0.291 due to higher pupil numbers.

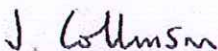
DJH Mitten Clarke has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report 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 8 December 2023.



.....
Jennifer Collinson
Chair of Trustees

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Prospere 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 Trust regularly reviews all levels of Governance through skills and committee composition audits, along with audits and action plans at Trust and LGB level. The Scheme of Delegation is reviewed annually and training supports statutory Governance roles. Governance is included in the scope of internal audit activities. External QA and Ofsted also review Governance as part of Leadership and Management. Through these actions, the Trust Board has been able to address any skills challenge arising in the year and has been able to gain comfort over the Trust Board's effectiveness. The Trust Board is also satisfied that the quality of information supplied in its decision-making is high, having been prepared by a competent management team that is subject to robust oversight.

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 Prospere Learning 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 seven times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mark Brookfield	7	7
Jennifer Collinson (Chair)	7	7
Amanda Edwards	4	7
Helen Jones	0	6
Beverley Ridyard	5	7
Ben Ramm	7	7
Iain Ashworth	0	7
Oliva Clayton	2	7
Roger Griffiths	5	7
Hannah Holmes	6	7
Ian Pickup	6	7
Sharon Handley (appointed 24/04/23)	1	1

Iain Ashworth is currently unable to attend the scheduled Trust Board meetings due to other commitments therefore his non-attendance has been agreed with the Chair. Iain chairs the Trust's Resources Committee. Although some Trustees have not been able to attend all of the meetings, they have access to the papers for every meeting and opportunity to provide feedback. Therefore, the Trust is satisfied that the Trust Board has discharged its duties fully and thoroughly throughout the year. No particular challenges have arisen for the Board in the year ended 31 August 2023 and the Board are comfortable, through self-review, that it remains effective. Data from the management team, as used by the Board in decision making, is believed to be robust given the expertise and experience of the team, and the Board are able to openly and honestly challenge data provided.

The Board's work covers the responsibilities defined in the Scheme of Delegation and as set out in the work plan which is reviewed annually.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Governance Review

Governance reviews take place annually. This includes full skills audits of each committee and also additional audits regarding the effectiveness of the Committee/ LGB. LGBs' will review this regularly to ensure that any action planning or targets they have put into place are met. The Trust also undertakes a full Governance Review for Internal Audit on a regular basis. The review in 2023 highlighted that governance at all levels was strong.

Regular updates and training are run centrally from the Trust to upskill new Governors, or to update Key Governors, such as Chairs, Safeguarding and Health and Safety Governors regarding their roles. The Governance of safeguarding has been key training for all governors recently.

The Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. The Committee was constituted in December 2018. The committee is tasked with reviewing the overall risk profile of the Trust and to monitor the risk management techniques employed at all levels within the Trust. In addition, it will review the effectiveness of financial controls and advise the Trust on all aspects of internal and external audit. The Committee met four times during the year. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Roger Griffiths	3	4
Ian Pickup	4	4
Sam Morris	2	4
Mark Burgess	2	4
Jenny Andrews	3	4

During the year, the Trust held 6 Resources Committee meetings. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Iain Ashworth	6	6
Alf Parrington	6	6
Jenny Andrews	6	6
Mark Brookfield	5	6
Emily Jones	1	1

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Benchmarking key KPI's on a monthly basis alongside the management accounts, reviewing variances and outliers and addressing any issues as appropriate
- Continually reviewing provision of services within the Trust and those procured externally to maximise potential savings and drive efficiency
- Progressing with the Procurement Strategy, in order to maximise value for money across the Trust
- Utilising Trust resources to provide support internally to deliver school improvement

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 these 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 at Prosperere Learning Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 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 budget setting and monitoring systems with an annual budget setting report and monthly financial reports containing updated forecasts and KPI's, which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Resources Committee of the management accounts and of major purchase plans and capital works programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance; clearly defined purchasing guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for an internal audit function and appointed Wylie and Bissett to complete a programme of agreed upon procedures for the 2022-23 financial year.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. The internal auditor/reviewer has delivered their schedule of work as planned. Three areas were reviewed in 2022-23, Cyber Security, GDPR and Wellbeing. All three areas received the highest possible rating, demonstrating the strong control environment in place. The internal auditors also carried out a follow up review, which evidenced that all previous audit recommendations had been implemented by the Trust.

The Risk and Audit Committee will take forward the review of the resultant actions from the report to ensure that appropriate progress is made. The Board receives all minutes and reports of the Risk and Audit Committee.

Managing conflicts of interest

The Trust manages potential conflicts of interest by maintaining an up-to-date register of interests, and ensuring that any identified interests are taken into consideration in all aspects of decision making.

Review of effectiveness

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

- work of the internal auditor
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Trust Board and Risk and Audit Committee during 2022-23 and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 8 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

J. Collinson
.....

Jennifer Collinson
Chair of trustees

Linda Jones
.....

Linda Jones (Non-statutory)
Accounting Officer

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

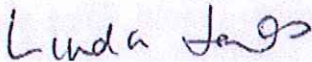
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of Prospere 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 in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the board of trustees and ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA:

The academy trust did not declare a related party transaction to the ESFA prior to placing the order with the related party, as required by the Academy Trust Handbook 2022. The academy trust has now declared the related party transaction to the ESFA in advance of the 2023-24 service level agreement being entered into.



.....
Linda Jones (Non-statutory)
Accounting Officer

Date: 8 December 2023

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of Prospere Learning Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

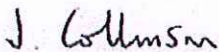
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 8 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Jennifer Collinson
Chair of trustees

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Prospere Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

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

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the group's or the parent charitable company's financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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.



Candice Beynon FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Bridge House

Ashley Road

Hale

Altrincham WA14 2UT

Date 8/12/23

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 October 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Prospere Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Prospere Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Prospere Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 August 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

The academy trust did not declare a related party transaction to the ESFA prior to placing the order with the related party, as required by the Academy Trust Handbook 2022. The academy trust has now declared the related party transaction to the ESFA in advance of the 2023-24 service level agreement being entered into.



DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited
Reporting Accountant

Date: 31/12/23

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	6	3,972	3,978	2,943
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		-	-	-	-	13,352
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	55,182	-	55,182	48,723
- Teaching school		-	-	-	-	72
Other trading activities	5	1,113	53	-	1,166	1,008
Investments	6	86	-	-	86	1
Total		<u>1,199</u>	<u>55,241</u>	<u>3,972</u>	<u>60,412</u>	<u>66,099</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	2,763	52,895	5,050	60,708	56,471
- Teaching school		-	-	-	-	46
Total	7	<u>2,763</u>	<u>52,895</u>	<u>5,050</u>	<u>60,708</u>	<u>56,517</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,564)	2,346	(1,078)	(296)	9,582
Transfers between funds	18	-	(2,269)	2,269	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(2,470)	-	(2,470)	29,568
Net movement in funds		(1,564)	(2,393)	1,191	(2,766)	39,150
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,291	9,292	173,547	185,130	145,980
Total funds carried forward		<u>727</u>	<u>6,899</u>	<u>174,738</u>	<u>182,364</u>	<u>185,130</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2022		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	11	-	2,932	2,943
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		-	214	13,138	13,352
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	158	48,565	-	48,723
- Teaching school		-	72	-	72
Other trading activities	5	1,008	-	-	1,008
Investments	6	1	-	-	1
Total		<u>1,178</u>	<u>48,851</u>	<u>16,070</u>	<u>66,099</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	1,079	50,851	4,541	56,471
- Teaching school		-	46	-	46
Total	7	<u>1,079</u>	<u>50,897</u>	<u>4,541</u>	<u>56,517</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		99	(2,046)	11,529	9,582
Transfers between funds	18	-	(1,510)	1,510	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	29,568	-	29,568
Net movement in funds		99	26,012	13,039	39,150
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,206</u>	<u>(15,734)</u>	<u>160,508</u>	<u>145,980</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,305</u>	<u>10,278</u>	<u>173,547</u>	<u>185,130</u>

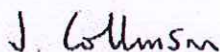
PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	£'000	2022 £'000	£'000
Tangible assets	13		173,666		172,621
Current assets					
Stock	14	-		2	
Debtors	15	3,257		2,966	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,375		10,970	
		<u>13,632</u>		<u>13,938</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(4,916)		(4,356)	
Net current assets			8,716		9,582
Net assets excluding pension asset			182,382		182,203
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	20		(18)		2,927
Total net assets			<u>182,364</u>		<u>185,130</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			174,738		173,547
- Restricted income funds			6,917		6,365
- Pension reserve			(18)		2,927
Total restricted funds			<u>181,637</u>		<u>182,839</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18		727		2,291
Total funds			<u>182,364</u>		<u>185,130</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 8 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Jennifer Collinson
Chair of trustees

Company registration number 10872612 (England and Wales)

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	£'000	2022 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	21		1,442		4,746
Cash funds transferred on conversion			-		214
			<u>1,442</u>		<u>4,960</u>
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		86		1	
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,442		2,932	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		2,530		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(6,095)		(4,448)	
			<u>(2,037)</u>		<u>(1,515)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities					
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(595)		3,445
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			10,970		7,525
			<u>10,375</u>		<u>10,970</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year					

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Prospere Learning Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 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.

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

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.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

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.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	Buildings - 50 years, land - nil
Leasehold buildings	Buildings depreciated over 50 years
Leasehold land	Depreciated over the life of the lease - 125 years
Assets under construction	nil until brought into use
Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment	3 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	10 years

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.13 Agency Arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 28.

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.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

In making decisions regarding the depreciation of tangible fixed assets, management must estimate the useful life and residual value of said assets to the trust. A change in estimate would result in a change in the depreciation charged to the financial activities each year.

Critical areas of judgement

In the view of the trustees, there are no further assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date that are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Capital grants	-	1,442	1,442	2,932
Other donations	-	2,536	2,536	11
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,978</u>	<u>3,978</u>	<u>2,943</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,978</u></u>	<u><u>3,978</u></u>	<u><u>2,943</u></u>

Included within donations is £2.5m of capital grants received from the local authorities which are included within the restricted fixed asset fund.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	37,982	37,982	34,915
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	2,738	2,738	2,513
- Start up grants	-	169	169	208
- Supplementary grant	-	984	984	282
- Others	-	2,084	2,084	540
	-	43,957	43,957	38,458
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	10,876	10,876	9,093
Teaching school				
Teaching school income - direct	-	-	-	72
Non-DfE/ESFA				
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	986
	-	-	-	1,058
Other incoming resources	-	349	349	186
Total funding	-	55,182	55,182	48,795

The academy trust received £10,876,000 (2022: £9,093,000) from the local authorities in the year, being high needs top up funding, teachers pay and pension grants, pupil premium funding and other funding.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to the grants in the year.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	276	-	276	156
Catering income	705	-	705	682
Other income	132	53	185	170
	1,113	53	1,166	1,008

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Short term deposits	86	-	86	1

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	33,365	-	4,905	38,270	35,519
- Allocated support costs	8,670	10,572	3,196	22,438	20,952
Teaching school	-	-	-	-	46
	<u>42,035</u>	<u>10,572</u>	<u>8,101</u>	<u>60,708</u>	<u>56,517</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating lease rentals	114	20
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	5,050	4,541
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	26	38
- Other services	5	7
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(111)	395

8 Central services

The Trust now operates central teams for Finance, HR, IT Estates and Catering and recharges the cost for these services to schools.

In addition to the above, schools pay a Central Cost Contribution (CCC), which is charged at 3% of core Income (GAG, Pupil Premium and SEN funding). This contribution covers the following staff and services:

- Executive Leadership Team
- School Improvement Lead
- External and internal audit fees
- Governance and MAT legal fees, including clerking
- Apprenticeship levy
- Trust wide software and licences
- School improvement resources
- Recruitment SLA
- Project costs for Trust wide initiatives

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8	Central services	(Continued)		
	The amounts charged during the year were as follows:		2023	2022
			£'000	£'000
	MEA Central		487	434
	Manchester Enterprise Academy		609	557
	Grange School		344	265
	CHS South		426	259
	Chorlton High School		648	597
	Piper Hill High School		346	296
	Pioneer House High School		178	139
	Prospect House Specialist Support School		108	55
			<u>3,146</u>	<u>2,602</u>
			<u><u>3,146</u></u>	<u><u>2,602</u></u>
9	Charitable activities			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		funds	funds	2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Direct costs			
	Educational operations	-	38,270	38,270
	Support costs			
	Educational operations	2,763	19,675	22,438
		<u>2,763</u>	<u>19,675</u>	<u>22,438</u>
		<u><u>2,763</u></u>	<u><u>19,675</u></u>	<u><u>22,438</u></u>
				2023
				£'000
	Analysis of support costs			
	Support staff costs			8,996
	Depreciation			5,050
	Technology costs			484
	Premises costs			5,522
	Legal costs			65
	Other support costs			2,230
	Governance costs			91
				<u>22,438</u>
				<u><u>22,438</u></u>
				2022
				£'000
				9,468
				4,541
				339
				3,980
				46
				2,516
				62
				<u>20,952</u>
				<u><u>20,952</u></u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	30,770	26,949
Social security costs	3,215	2,799
Pension costs	6,899	10,104
Staff costs - employees	40,884	39,852
Agency staff costs	1,066	964
Staff restructuring costs	85	87
	42,035	40,903
Staff development and other staff costs	460	172
Total staff expenditure	42,495	41,075
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	10	-
Severance payments	75	87
	85	87

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	2
£50,001 - £100,000	1

Special staff severance payments

Special staff severance payments are amounts paid to employees outside of statutory and contractual requirements. Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £32,366 (2022: £38,310). Individually the payments were £4,366 & £28,000.

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	387	371
Administration and support	586	506
Management	42	40
	1,015	917

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	30	21
£70,001 - £80,000	6	5
£80,001 - £90,000	3	5
£90,001 - £100,000	3	2
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
£130,001 - £140,000	2	2
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-

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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,741,330 (2022: £1,658,806).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have received remuneration from the academy trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2022: £nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy Trust has opted into the Depart 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 for 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.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land & buildings £'000	Leasehold land & buildings £'000	Assets under construction £'000	Fixtures fittings & computer equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	23,303	156,929	-	7,337	253	187,822
Additions	-	3,174	1,721	1,185	15	6,095
At 31 August 2023	23,303	160,103	1,721	8,522	268	193,917
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	1,663	9,383	-	4,072	83	15,201
Charge for the year	445	3,167	-	1,410	28	5,050
At 31 August 2023	2,108	12,550	-	5,482	111	20,251
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	21,195	147,553	1,721	3,040	157	173,666
At 31 August 2022	21,640	147,546	-	3,265	170	172,621

The net book value of land and buildings comprises:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Freeholds	21,195	21,640
Long leaseholds (over 50 years)	147,553	147,546
	168,748	169,186

14 Stock

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
School uniform	-	2

15 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	630	122
VAT recoverable	927	1,217
Other debtors	12	32
Prepayments and accrued income	1,688	1,595
	3,257	2,966

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

2023	2022
£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	355
ESFA creditors	-
Other creditors	35
Accruals and deferred income	3,966
	<u>4,356</u>
	<u>4,916</u>

17 Deferred income

2023	2022
£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:	
Creditors due within one year	186
	<u>186</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	347
Released from previous years	(233)
Resources deferred in the year	72
	<u>186</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>186</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust had received the below income in advance of the following financial year:

- Rates relief - £118,827 (2022: £nil),
- ESFA opening grant - £27,365 (2022: £30,000),
- Bursary funding - £42,473 (2022: £51,691),
- University of Cumbria income - £5,777 (2022: £26,137),
- UIFSM funding - £8,133 (2022: £4,408),
- Lottery funding - £nil (2022: £8,040),
- Timpson's grant - £nil(2022: £49,609),
- Trips income - £53,781 (2022: £nil)
- Other income - £16,880 (2022: £16,451)

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

	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)	5,719	37,982	(34,586)	(2,198)	6,917
Start up grants	-	169	(169)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,738	(2,738)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	30	1,581	(1,611)	-	-
Other government grants	-	10,876	(10,876)	-	-
Teaching school	71	-	-	(71)	-
Catch up premium	257	-	(257)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	1,487	(1,487)	-	-
Other restricted funds	288	408	(696)	-	-
Pension reserve	2,927	-	(475)	(2,470)	(18)
	<u>9,292</u>	<u>55,241</u>	<u>(52,895)</u>	<u>(4,739)</u>	<u>6,899</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	161,692	-	(3,657)	-	158,035
DfE group capital grants	-	1,442	(25)	-	1,417
Capital expenditure from GAG	11,855	-	(1,317)	2,269	12,807
LA capital grants	-	2,530	(51)	-	2,479
	<u>173,547</u>	<u>3,972</u>	<u>(5,050)</u>	<u>2,269</u>	<u>174,738</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>182,839</u>	<u>59,213</u>	<u>(57,945)</u>	<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>181,637</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	928	1,199	(2,763)	1,363	727
Unrestricted funds	1,363	-	-	(1,363)	-
	<u>2,291</u>	<u>1,199</u>	<u>(2,763)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>727</u>
Total funds	<u>185,130</u>	<u>60,412</u>	<u>(60,708)</u>	<u>(2,470)</u>	<u>182,364</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objects of the academy and are restricted to both the day to day running of the academy and capital expenditure.

The pension values as at 31 August 2023 have been determined by the actuary which is showing the following pension assets and liabilities within the academy trust as at the balance sheet date:

CHS South – pension liability of £18,000
MEA Central & Manchester Enterprise Academy (combined valuation) – pension asset of £3,592,000
Chorlton High School – pension asset of £1,750,000
Grange School – pension asset of £1,758,000
Piper Hill High School – pension asset of £474,000
Pioneer House High School – pension asset of £249,000
Prospect House Specialist Support School – pension asset of £34,000

In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis that the academy trust has minimum funding requirements existing for future service. This results in the academy trust's consolidated position as showing a pension liability and pension fund deficit.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund carried forward relates to the net book value of fixed assets of £173,666,000 plus unspent capital funding of £1,072,000.

Unrestricted funds are funds which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objects and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

The transfer of £2,269,000 from restricted general GAG fund to restricted fixed asset fund relates to capital additions for which there was no specific capital funding.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,686	35,129	(33,372)	(1,510)	5,719
Start up grants	-	208	(208)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,513	(2,513)	-	-
Catch-up premium	257	-	-	-	257
Other government grants	8	9,093	(9,101)	-	-
Teaching school	45	72	(46)	-	71
Other restricted funds	46	242	-	-	288
Pension reserve	(21,776)	-	(4,865)	29,568	2,927
	<u>(15,734)</u>	<u>47,865</u>	<u>(50,897)</u>	<u>28,058</u>	<u>9,292</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	151,622	13,138	(3,068)	-	161,692
DfE group capital grants	(1,577)	2,932	(1,355)	-	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	10,463	-	(118)	1,510	11,855
	<u>160,508</u>	<u>16,070</u>	<u>(4,541)</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>173,547</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>144,774</u>	<u>63,935</u>	<u>(55,438)</u>	<u>29,568</u>	<u>182,839</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	974	(46)	-	928
Unrestricted funds	1,206	1,190	(1,033)	-	1,363
	<u>1,206</u>	<u>2,164</u>	<u>(1,079)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,291</u>
Total funds	<u>145,980</u>	<u>66,099</u>	<u>(56,517)</u>	<u>29,568</u>	<u>185,130</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
MEA Central	1,511	1,478
Manchester Enterprise Academy	1,990	1,611
Grange School	927	1,186
CHS South	1,146	1,365
Chorlton High School	819	1,328
Piper Hill High School	275	446
Pioneer House High School	867	956
Prospect House Specialist Support School	401	247
Central services	(292)	39
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	7,644	8,656
Restricted fixed asset fund	174,738	173,547
Pension reserve	(18)	2,927
Total funds	182,364	185,130

The central trust revenue fund has moved into a deficit due to the trust making the decision not to increase the charge to schools during the course of the year following some changes to the central services budget and additional income received by the schools. This was a planned approach in order to ensure schools budgets were not put under any additional pressure during the year. This was a one year approach, and the central trust budget will move into a comfortable surplus position for futures years based on the approved three year budget for 23-24 onwards. Additionally, the trust has a comfortable overall level of revenue reserves at the end of the year.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching & educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
MEA Central	5,029	572	834	1,148	7,583	6,839
Manchester Enterprise Academy	6,117	789	1,285	1,753	9,944	8,865
Grange School	3,824	361	286	962	5,433	4,778
CHS South	4,690	715	905	1,262	7,572	5,235
Chorlton High School	7,320	910	766	1,852	10,848	10,105
Piper Hill High School	4,178	361	199	899	5,637	4,817
Pioneer House High School	1,920	251	193	441	2,805	2,301
Prospect House Specialist Support School	1,184	218	110	317	1,829	1,071
Central services	849	2,161	14	504	3,528	2,884
	<u>35,111</u>	<u>6,341</u>	<u>4,592</u>	<u>9,138</u>	<u>55,182</u>	<u>46,895</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	173,666	173,666
Current assets	727	11,833	1,072	13,632
Current liabilities	-	(4,916)	-	(4,916)
Pension scheme asset	-	(18)	-	(18)
Total net assets	<u>727</u>	<u>6,899</u>	<u>174,738</u>	<u>182,364</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £'000 £'000		Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	172,621	172,621
Current assets	2,291	10,721	926	13,938
Current liabilities	-	(4,356)	-	(4,356)
Pension scheme asset	-	2,927	-	2,927
Total net assets	2,291	9,292	173,547	185,130

20 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 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify 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 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £4,087,863 (2022: £3,759,120).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.2% for employers and 5.5 to 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	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Employer's contributions	2,217	1,876
Employees' contributions	747	622
Total contributions	<u>2,964</u>	<u>2,498</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75 - 3.80	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.95 - 3.00	3.1
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.3

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	16.9-20.7	20.3
- Females	21.2-23.8	23.2
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	19.3-20.5	21.6
- Females	23.5-24.7	25.1

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are as set out below:

Sensitivity analysis - Piper Hill Support School

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	3%	170
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	255
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	28
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	145

Sensitivity analysis - Prospect House Specialist Support School

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	3%	15
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	18
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	1
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3%	13

Sensitivity analysis - Pioneer House High School

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	3%	44
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	54
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	5
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3%	40

Sensitivity analysis - CHS South

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	3%	36
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	42
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	3
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3%	33

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Sensitivity analysis - MEA Central & Manchester Enterprise Academy

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	235
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	419
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	10
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	229

Sensitivity analysis - Chorlton High School

0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	185
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	298
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	26
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	162

Sensitivity analysis - Grange School

	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	3%	117
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	165
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	11
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3%	108

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

	2023 Fair value £'000	2022 Fair value £'000
Equities	27,359	24,182
Bonds	5,472	4,905
Cash	3,126	2,805
Property	3,127	3,155
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	39,084	35,047
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,510,000 (2022: £463,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	2,803	6,332
Past service cost	-	14
Interest income	(1,541)	(551)
Interest cost	1,430	946
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating charge	2,692	6,741
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2022	32,120	54,173
Current service cost	2,803	6,332
Interest cost	1,430	946
Employee contributions	747	622
Actuarial gain	2,439	(29,656)
Benefits paid	(437)	(311)
Past service cost	-	14
At 31 August 2023	<u>39,102</u>	<u>32,120</u>
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2022	35,047	32,397
Interest income	1,541	551
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(31)	(88)
Employer contributions	2,217	1,876
Employee contributions	747	622
Benefits paid	(437)	(311)
At 31 August 2023	<u>39,084</u>	<u>35,047</u>

The pension values as at 31 August 2023 have been determined by the actuary which is showing the following pension assets and liabilities within the academy trust as at the balance sheet date:

CHS South – pension liability of £18,000
 MEA Central & Manchester Enterprise Academy (combined valuation) – pension asset of £3,592,000
 Chorlton High School – pension asset of £1,750,000
 Grange School – pension asset of £1,758,000
 Piper Hill High School – pension asset of £474,000
 Pioneer House High School – pension asset of £249,000
 Prospect House Specialist Support School – pension asset of £34,000

In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis that the academy trust has minimum funding requirements existing for future service. This results in the academy trust's consolidated position as showing a pension liability and pension fund deficit.

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(296)	9,583
Adjusted for:			
Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust		-	(13,352)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(3,972)	(2,932)
Investment income receivable	6	(86)	(1)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	586	4,470
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	(111)	395
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		5,050	4,541
Decrease in stocks		2	-
(Increase) in debtors		(291)	(214)
Increase in creditors		560	2,256
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>1,442</u>	<u>4,746</u>

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	<u>10,970</u>	<u>(595)</u>	<u>10,375</u>

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	107	54
Amounts due in two and five years	222	117
	<u>329</u>	<u>171</u>

PROSPERE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

24 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	946	879

Capital commitments at 31 August 2023 relate to roofing works being completed across the trust and the construction of a new building at Pioneer House High School. Projects are expected to complete in 2023-24.

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Bright Futures Educational Trust is a related party through I Ashworth, who is a trustee of both Prosper Learning Trust and Bright Futures Educational Trust. The academy trust has purchased educational support services from Bright Futures Educational Trust totalling £8,798. The educational support services are for the provision of Early Career Teacher Induction across the Trust, formal assessment against Teacher Standards and for the accreditation of Qualified Teacher Status as an Awarding Body. As at the balance sheet date, the academy trust owed £2,343 to Bright Futures Educational Trust.

The academy trust received income totalling £23,833 from Bright Futures Educational Trust from the provision of staff training in the year. As at the balance sheet date, £1,300 was owed to the academy trust.

In entering into the transactions, the academy trust has not complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook as no declaration was made to the ESFA.

26 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.

27 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting year ended 31 August 2023 the academy trust received £28,408 (2022: £16,574) and disbursed £2,109 (2022: £9,222) from the fund. An amount of £54,467 (2022: £48,096) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds, with £26,059 being repayable to the ESFA .