

Company registration number 09258843 (England and Wales)

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

R Hoyles (Appointed 27 September 2023)
Reverend Monsignor G Ewing, Vicar General
Sr M I Teixeira de Sousa E Silva, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
J Hayes (Resigned 27 September 2023)

Governors

R Hoyles (Chair)
P Biggenden (Resigned 30 September 2024)
M Costello (Appointed 18 October 2024)
M Dako (Appointed 17 May 2024)
M Fahey (Appointed 17 November 2023)
F Fear
H Hawkins (Appointed 13 November 2023)
J Hayes (Resigned 27 September 2023)
B Johnston
E Keenan-O'Malley
D Lettington
P Monaghan (Chair of Resources & Audit)
L Varughese
I Vassallo (Accounting officer)
E Wigner (Resigned 11 January 2024)
E Woods (Appointed 22 May 2024)
B Yussuf

Senior management team

- Headteacher	I Vassallo
- Deputy Headteacher	S Durand
- Assistant Headteacher	A Beirne
- Chief Financial Officer	M Erasmus

Company registration number

09258843 (England and Wales)

Registered office

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Westgate Road
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 5DE
United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
6-8 Market Square
Bromley
Kent
BR1 1NA
United Kingdom

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 servicing a catchment area in accordance with the academy's admissions policy as detailed on its website. It has a pupil capacity of 420 and had a roll of 406 registered on 31 August 2024

Please note that in the following the terms "school", "academy" and "academy trust" are used interchangeably and relate to the operation and activity of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee without share capital (registration no.09258843) and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. The Governors act as the Trustees for the charitable activities of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and they are also Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Details of the Governors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School was incorporated on 10 October 2014 and obtained Academy status from 1 November 2014.

Members' liability

The liability of the Members of the Academy Trust is limited.

Every Member of the Academy Trust undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Academy Trust's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, for payment of the Academy Trust's debts and liabilities before he or she ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

Governors' Indemnities

In accordance with the Articles of Association, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Governor or other officer or auditor of the Academy Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust against any liability incurred by him or her in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which he/she is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him/her by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust. The academy recognises this risk and mitigates this by sufficient insurance cover.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Academy is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular managing and developing a Catholic academy for children aged 4 to 11 which offers a broad and balanced curriculum and is conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church and all Catholic canon law. In doing so it meets the requirements of the Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Education. A copy of this document is found on the school's website.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

The Academy Trust shall have the following Governors: -

- 8 foundation Governors appointed under Article 50 of which 3 may be appointed by the Provincial Superior of the Trustees (The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) and 5 by the Archbishop;
- no less than 2 Staff Governors appointed under Articles 50A and 58A;
- up to 1 Local Governor appointed under Article 51;
- no less than 2 Parent Governors elected or appointed under Articles 53-58;
- the Headteacher.

The Academy may also have up to two Co-opted Governors appointed under Article 59 provided that if any such Governors are appointed the number of Foundation Governors permitted by Articles 46 and 50 shall increase proportionately to ensure that the number of Foundation Governors always exceeds the total number of other Governors by at least two.

The maximum term of office for any Governor shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Head Teacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected for up to three terms in total.

Members

The members of the Academy Trust are comprised of three members being the Vicar General, one person nominated by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Chair of Governors.

Further persons may be members subject to the terms of Article 16.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Governors

The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. All new Governors will be given a tour of the school and the chance to meet with staff, children and other Governors. All relevant Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. As there are normally only one or two new Governors each period, induction is tailored specifically to the individual. In keeping with the academy's commitment to the safeguarding and wellbeing of the children and adults, safeguarding training is made available to all Governors.

The Governing Body regularly undertakes a review of its scope, range and level of skills amongst the governors. Skills audits are undertaken annually. The results are discussed in depth at a regular meeting of the Governing Body. This ensures any deficiencies are addressed and all appropriate skills and strengths are allocated to supporting the relevant area in the academy.

Organisational structure

The academy's structure consists of three levels: the Governors, Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leaders (including Subject Leaders). The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the school by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Governors have approved a formal scheme of delegation. By this document the Governors have delegated powers and functions to the Headteacher as required for the internal organisation, management and control of the academy, for the direction of the teaching and curriculum in the academy and for financial and administrative matters.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, and School Business Manager. These leaders control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff: appointment boards for middle and senior leader posts will contain at least one Governor.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Remuneration for key management personnel is based on the school's staff pay policy which for members of the teaching staff is set currently in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (STPC) and for members of the support team in accordance with the National Joint Council.

The Headteacher's pay and conditions are determined in accordance with the latest STPC which includes the necessary benchmarking for an academy such as St Mary's. The Headteacher's pay and performance are reviewed annually by the Chair and members of the governing body.

All managers and key personnel are rigorously performance managed annually taking into consideration job evaluation and past performance. Consequently, each manager's salary is paid in accordance with proven skills and performance.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The school is a founding member of the Bromley Catholic Schools Trust. This is an umbrella trust and its aims are to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between the academies with a particular emphasis on improving standards so that the member schools might better serve their communities and promote the common good. It consists of six primary academies operating in the London Borough of Bromley

The Chair of Governors and the Headteacher of the academy sit on the board of the umbrella trust as directors.

The post of Chair of the Bromley Catholic Schools Trust rotates amongst the directors of the schools. This post was held by St James', Petts Wood in 2023-24 and is held by Holy Innocents in 2024-25

The activities of the academies and the umbrella trust shall be in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church and all Catholic canon law applying thereto having regard to any advice given by the officers appointed by the Archbishop and being responsible for the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark (charity number 0235468). This latter-mentioned body is known as the Education Service in the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark under the Interim Diocesan Schools Commissioner, Angela Cox.

The school has entered into an agreement between itself, the Secretary of State for Education and the academy's trustees, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart (Charity number 221319) and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark for the use of the land and buildings on which the school stands.

The school is also the beneficiary of the activities of the St Mary's Parents and Teachers Association (Charity number 312476). This body raises funds to support the activities of the school by providing for funding for higher value items of educational equipment, furniture, fixture and fittings as well as enhancing the educational provision in the school.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

St Mary's Catholic Primary School opened as an Academy on 1 November 2014.

The object of the academy trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a Catholic school designated as such ("the Academy") which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church and all Catholic canon law applying thereto including any trust deed governing the use of land used by the Academy both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship and having regard to any advice and following directives issued by the Archbishop.

The Governors, staff and parents of the school share high aspirations for all children. Our aim is to provide an education where each child is enabled to realise his/her potential academically, physically, morally, socially and spiritually. It is the responsibility of all staff, parents and governors, in collaboration with the local Catholic parishes of St Edmund's, Beckenham, St Mark's, West Wickham and The Holy Rosary Church, Hayes to assist children on their faith journeys, deepening their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic church.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main activities of the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below: -

- to pass on Church teaching and to encourage a development of faith at each individual's level;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and pastoral care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all children, ensuring every child reaches his or her full potential and makes the best progress possible;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to ensure that the school is suitably staffed;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- to ensure teaching and learning is of the highest standard;
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness;
- to develop and maintain links with local Catholic parishes, the Bromley Catholic Schools Trust and its constituent members, the Archdiocese of Southwark and the wider community including working with other educational establishments.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School values diversity and seeks to give everyone in the school an equal chance to learn, work and live, free from the action, or fear, of racism, discrimination, or prejudice. By our actions we will work together to develop the potential of all children academically, socially, culturally and psychologically and to establish a community that is just and fair for all people who work at, learn in or visit St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Our aim is for children to be happy and healthy, enthused by the intellectual, social, spiritual and physical challenges posed by their experience at the school. They will be independent learners, aware of how to learn and of the role of emotions and dispositions in the learning process, which they draw on to address challenge and difficulty, as well as success.

All staff will have the opportunity to develop their pedagogy further through working collaboratively with others to enhance their own expertise. Through their passion, teachers will enthuse and inspire others to explore new ideas.

Parents will fulfil their roles as true partners, recognising their role in the school/ home partnership to ensure that their child realises his/her potential.

Governors will contribute to the life of the school on a wider scale, acting as critical friends to support the school in becoming a recognised centre of excellence.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Public benefit

The Governors confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in exercising their powers or duties when planning future activities. In particular, the Governors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

As a Catholic academy, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our children where the Catholic doctrine and practice permeates every aspect of the school's activity.

The academy exists primarily to serve Catholic families who regularly worship at the parishes of St Edmund's Beckenham; St Mark's West Wickham and The Holy Rosary Hayes. Subject to the availability of places, the Governing Body welcomes applications from Catholic families from other parishes as well as those of other denominations and faiths, or no faith, who support the religious ethos of the school.

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to this academy and, having consulted with the Archdiocese, the local authority and other admission authorities, intends to admit 60 children to Reception in each new school year. Additional children can be admitted to Year 3 and above (places permitting) in accordance with the prevailing admissions policy.

Children are admitted to the school without reference to ability or aptitude.

Full details of the school's admissions policy can be found on its website (<https://www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>).

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

St Mary's is a two-form entry Catholic Primary School. There are currently 411 pupils on roll in 14 classes. Pupils come from a variety of different backgrounds. The staffing complement is stable.

Inspection regime

The school was judged by Ofsted on 3 and 4 July 2024 and was judged to be outstanding in all areas. Of particular note were the following points made by the inspector in her letter: -

- Pupils thrive at this exceptional school. Kindness is at the centre of the culture. Pupils are confident, polite, and extremely hard working. They have a passion for learning and are very happy in school.
- Working relationships between staff and pupils are entirely positive. Staff know their pupils very well. This ensures pupils are safe in school. Staff have high expectations for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This enables pupils to excel.
- Pupils' behaviour during lessons and around the school site is exemplary. They are rightly proud of their school and support each other well. Leaders focus on the development of pupils' character. The Catholic ethos in the school is pivotal to the values. Pupils understand these well and embody them through their actions.
- Pupils have access to an extremely broad range of wider opportunities in the school. Most pupils access the many clubs on offer. There is an extremely broad range of sports teams to take part in including taekwondo, lacrosse, and Gaelic football. Many pupils learn musical instruments and there are a wide range of performance opportunities. Pupils support a number of local and national charities through funding raising activities and collections for the local foodbank.
- Leaders have developed a highly ambitious curriculum that supports all pupils, including those with SEND, to achieve well. This is because knowledge is well sequenced to deepen pupils' understanding over time.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

- Teachers have strong subject knowledge and present information very clearly. They make extremely effective adaptations to ensure that pupils with SEND access the curriculum successfully. Teachers routinely check pupils' understanding and address any misconceptions swiftly. This ensures that all pupils have a secure understanding before moving onto new learning. In early years, teachers are highly skilled at ensuring children develop their communication skills. Staff continuously develop and embed the children's vocabulary through a wide range of well-chosen activities.
- Leaders have placed a sharp focus on the teaching of early reading. All staff are well trained in delivering the phonics programme. Staff teach phonics consistently to a high standard. They continuously check pupils' understanding and swiftly put support in place to ensure pupils don't fall behind the pace of the programme.
- Pupils regularly read a wide range of texts. Books that pupils take home are matched closely to the phonic sounds that they know. Pupils are confident reading out loud and do so with expression and enthusiasm. They demonstrate a genuine love of reading. Leaders work closely with parents and carers to ensure they are able to support their children to read at home.
- Pupils have exceptional attitudes to their learning. They are focussed, enthusiastic and resilient if they find something difficult. Children in early years are highly motivated. They share well and show respect for each other. The attendance of pupils in school is extremely high. Leaders work effectively with parents and have robust strategies in place to ensure that pupils attend school regularly.
- The school's personal development curriculum has been coherently planned to ensure that pupils' knowledge and understanding deepen and build over time. For example, pupils develop a strong understanding of how to stay healthy and safe, including online
- Pupils attend a very broad range of outings each year. These are extremely well planned to ensure these visits further enhance the ambitious curriculum and support pupils to develop other important character traits. Pupils readily take on leadership roles, including as student chaplains or digital leaders.
- Leaders have developed a comprehensive professional development programme. This leads to sustained and continuous improvement in the quality of education. The governing body understands the strengths and priorities of the school and carries out its role effectively.

A copy of the full inspection report is available on both the school's website and Ofsted's.

The school's Section 48 inspection (May 2019) graded the school as outstanding. Of particular note are the following comments made by the inspectors: -

- St Mary's offers a very high standard of Catholic education in an inclusive and welcoming school community. Pupils enjoy coming to school. They feel inspired to do their best and to be of service to God, their school and the community.
- Strong leadership at all levels, supported by a conscientious and committed staff team, maintains and develops current high standards and strives for continued improvement.
- Excellent systems of pastoral care include pupils, parents and staff.
- Standards of attainment are high.

Attainment on entry in Reception is generally in line with national expectations. By the end of KS1 and KS2 attainment is above the national average, suggesting good progress from initial starting points. The school's internal tracking data shows progress across the year groups in moving towards and exceeding national expectations to be good.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key performance indicators

The school's aim is to deliver outstanding teaching and learning throughout the school. Our aim is to ensure that the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management for children consistently meet the criteria of outstanding as measured by Ofsted.

Outcomes of statutory assessments in 2024 were strong, and generally above national standards.

Year 1 phonics screening check	95%	
Key Stage 2 assessment outcomes		
	Meeting the required standard	Working at greater depth
Reading	92.6%	48.1*%
Writing	85.2%	22.2%
Mathematics	92.6%	38.8%
Grammar, punctuation & spelling	80%	33%
Combined	71%	16%

Year 1's phonics outcomes increased from 90% in 2022/23 to 95% in 2023/24. Outcomes were in percentile 8 when compared to all schools nationally.

KS2 reading increased from 80% in 2022/23 to 92.6% in 2023/24. Outcomes were in percentile 9 when compared to all schools nationally.

KS2 writing increased from 75% in 2022/23 to 85.2% in 2023/24. Outcomes were in percentile 15 when compared to all schools nationally

KS2 maths increased from 71% in 2022/23 to 92.6% in 2023/24. Outcomes were in percentile 8 when compared to all schools nationally

To achieve these aims the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team rigorously monitor performance against the Self Evaluation Form (SEF). With the assistance of governors in their roles as critical friends, the SLT consistently and continuously re-evaluates all children's learning and wellbeing, ensuring the highest possible standards are achieved.

The school has very high expectations for children's attendance. Rates were 96.5% for the period Sep-23 to July-24.

Key financial performance indicators

The Governors have determined that the following parameters will be applied in relation to the school's financial performance: -

- The school will seek to maintain a 3 year balanced budget;
- Maintain adequate staffing levels to meet requirements of the timetable;
- Maintain staffing levels to ensure the needs of children with special educational needs (SEN) are met;
- Maintain a 3 and 5 year budget to include the priorities as set in the Strategic Plan and the School Development Plan;
- Continuing successful initiatives to enable increased student achievement.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Going concern

The Governors have reviewed future forecast projections and are continuing to monitor the impact of external factors including rising costs in salaries and utilities. The Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the coming year and has considered other options in increasing income to help protect the school from financial risks.- For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial review

The Academy's recurrent income is primarily derived from grants provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), which are restricted for specific purposes. The ESFA grants received for the year ended 31 August 2024, along with the related expenditures, are classified as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA).

For the year, total income amounted to £2,694k, vs £2,431 reported in the previous year, an improvement of £263k. This is largely due to the following factors:

- An increase in local authority grants of £102k, mostly due to funding from the Mayor of London for Universal Free School Meals. A proportion of this additional income was offset against increased catering expenses (£125k in 2023, vs £143k in 2024).
- An increase in DfE/ESFA grants of £91k, of which £60k was an increase in GAG funding.
- A secondment arrangement between the school and another local school and a growth in lettings contributed to the £71k increase in 'other trading activities'.

The SoFA records total expenditure for the year at £2,349k, compared to £2,509k at the end of the previous year – a reduction of £160k. This decrease is primarily due to a reduction in capital grant spending (£153k in 2023 vs £102k in 2024) and savings on support costs. Support staff costs fell from £373k in 2023 to £299k in 2024, reflecting a reduction of £74k. This change followed the advice from a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) visit in May 2023, which recommended a reduction in support staff without compromising educational outcomes.

The recent OFSTED inspection, in which the school was rated "Outstanding," along with strong results in the 2024 statutory assessments, demonstrates that the school's educational standards have remained high, despite these cost-saving measures.

The reported surplus in the restricted funds comprises of £122k in unspent capital grant funding, which has been allocated to the boiler replacement project that commenced in August 2024 and is currently ongoing. Looking forward, the school plans to reinvest part of the unrestricted surplus into capital projects during the next financial year, ensuring continued improvement of its facilities and resources to support long-term educational goals.

During the period ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £2,349k (2023: £2,509k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The net surplus for the year was £319k (2023: Net surplus of £11k) of which consisted of £67k (2023: £65k) worth of depreciation. Net movements in unrestricted funds saw a surplus of £81k (2023: deficit of £28k). This brought the Schools unrestricted level of reserves to £294k, from the initial £213k that the school started the year with.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £3,905k (2023: £3,854k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Local Government Pensions Scheme, in which the Academy participates, showed a balance of £nil (after allowing for asset ceiling) (2023: Deficit of £nil) at 31 August 2024.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

The school's primary purpose is to use its income to provide high quality, cost effective education. It broadly aims to break-even each year. However, given current funding constraints and uncertainties it would seem prudent for the School to endeavor to maintain a reserve fund of between 10% and 20% of annual grant income. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Resources & Audit Committee.

The purpose of this reserve would be:

- To provide a buffer against future funding uncertainties, which could be called on in the event of a funding shortfall in any year;
- To provide an emergency fund for unforeseen items of expenditure;
- The accretion of funding, over a pre-determined period, for a specific capital project approved by the Governing Body.

These purposes are subject to the overriding considerations that reserves will not be built at the expense of maintaining educational standards.

The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent repairs and maintenance. The academy's current level of unrestricted reserves is £294k (2023: £213k) (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds).

The academy's current level of restricted funds was £4,095k (2023: £3,857k), made up of fixed asset funds £4,027k (2023: £3,854k) and other restricted reserves of £68k (2023: £3k).

Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the academy has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes. To this end the governors approved an Investment Policy the purposes of which are the following: -

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day-to-day requirements;
- To ensure there is no risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested;
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation;
- To optimise returns on invested funds.

The school has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses, which has allowed the opening of a 32-Day Notice Savings Account with Lloyds Bank, who also hold the School's current account, to increase bank interest received. Interest to the amount of £2k was generated during the financial year ending on 31 August 2024.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Governors have identified the following in key operational areas: -

- Teaching and learning;
- Financial and human resource and management;
- Safety and Estates Management;
- Cyber security.

Using the academy's Risk Register, in accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements under CC26, the Governors have assessed the risks to which the school might be exposed. The Governors have looked to apply informally a "4Ts" approach to risk: Treat, Tolerate, Terminate or Transfer. The Governors have looked to "terminate" risk where possible and where financially prudent though the Governors recognise that not every risk can be so treated. Consequently, the Governors have developed policies and processes to mitigate or manage risk. The implementation of those is checked independently by the academy's internal auditors. Otherwise, the Governors have looked to "transfer" risk through insurance where possible or treat or tolerate risk dependent on the likely impact. Decisions on how to manage risk are assisted by the risk register in place. This is reviewed regularly by governors and managed operationally by the Headteacher and the School Business Manager.

The Governors consider that the principal risks and uncertainties St Mary's Catholic Primary School faces are appropriately identified on the Risk Register and managed accordingly. Property is well maintained and complies with the relevant regulations and statutory inspections are carried out as per the Good Estates Management for Schools guidance. In addition, Condition Improvement Funding was utilised to rewire the school and guidance regarding RAAC was duly followed to ensure the safety of our children. Additional funding was provided to the School to cover pupil's education recovery.

The principal risks and uncertainties that St Mary's Catholic Primary School faces are mitigated by the risk management process that the academy trust has in place.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trust has in place a comprehensive risk register, which is reviewed at least annually by the Board. This ensures that governors remain focused on the principal risks and uncertainties that the Trust is exposed to, and that steps are taken to mitigate against those risks. This is done through the work of the Resources and Audit Committee that ensures there are robust systems in place, including operational procedures and internal financial controls to minimise risks. The key risks faced by the trust in the current period is:

- **Maintaining Standards Amidst Budget Constraints and Staffing Changes:**
Due to financial pressures and delayed announcements of staffing increases, a review of staffing levels for 2023-2024 was necessary. Following a comprehensive benchmarking exercise and an assessment of the school's specific needs, a reduction in support staff was implemented. Additionally, the headteacher agreed to temporarily assist another local Catholic school in need, dividing her time equally between both schools. Mitigating strategies were put in place, and educational standards were closely monitored. As a result, SATS results in July 2024 showed improvement compared to the scores of 2023, and the school received an "Outstanding" rating from Ofsted.
- **Challenges with an Ageing Building and Maintenance Costs**
The school faced challenges with maintaining an ageing building, which is increasingly costly and perhaps less attractive compared to newer local schools, along with concerns about the possible presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). After conducting thorough investigations, it was confirmed that there was no RAAC in the school buildings. Additionally, the school successfully secured a CIF grant to replace all boilers. A regular maintenance program continues to be followed, ensuring that no significant disruptions to the school day had occurred.
- **Attracting and Retaining Skilled Staff Amidst Competition**
Despite the competitive benefits offered by large Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), the school remains committed to fostering strong relationships and supporting its staff. A recent staff survey produced highly positive results, and staffing remained stable throughout the year.
- **Managing the Impact of Decreasing Pupil Numbers and Future Funding**
In the context of declining pupil numbers both nationally and locally, the school is mindful of the potential impact on future funding. However, the school has successfully maintained its appeal to prospective students and anticipates a full Reception intake in September 2024.

A risk exists in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme, the Local Government Pension Scheme which currently shows a balance of £nil (2023: £nil). The risk is assessed annually by the appointed actuary, Mercer Limited, reviewed by the Governing Body and recorded appropriately in the financial statements. In mitigation of this risk, the Governing Body can show it has acted on the advice of the actuary to make suitable adjustments to its contribution level to address the risk.

Furthermore on 18 July 2013 Parliament agreed at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to guarantee that, in the event of closure, outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the DfE. On 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Plans for future periods

The school will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of its children at all levels and will continue its efforts to ensure the children are well-prepared to meet the challenges of the next stage of their education and development.

Evidence shows that the school has a good understanding of its strengths and areas for development based on rigorous analysis of data and monitoring of teaching and learning. The school makes good use of external validation to secure its judgement on the quality of provision and subsequent outcomes. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) has specific areas identified for improvement and is based on regular analysis of data which is meticulously analysed by the SLT.

The SIP is regularly monitored and is reviewed termly by the SLT and governors. It is underpinned by appropriate budget links. School Improvement strategies have an impact as the emphasis is sharply focused on Teaching and Learning and on pupil progress. These focus on rigorous monitoring, high quality CPD (continuing professional development) and thorough analysis of test and Teacher Assessment data. Formative assessment is part of daily pedagogical practice and feeds into termly summative assessment. The school makes good provision for personalised learning and intervention programmes and has developed a rich, creative curriculum which includes and stretches children across the ability range.

The school will continue to maintain and, where possible, develop the site to the benefit of the community as a whole. In keeping with the aims above regarding financial performance the school will aim to maintain adequate staffing levels to meet the requirements of all of the children in its care.

The school will seek other streams of income in support of all its aims and objectives.

The school recognises the importance of succession planning. The longstanding Chair of Governors stepped down in September 2023 and his successor was elected from within the current governance structure. In 2023/24, The headteacher will continue to provide leadership support for a Catholic school in a neighbouring borough for 2.5 days per week, until April 2025. The school is continuing investigations into joining a strong Multi Academy Trust.

Auditor

In so far as the Governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Governors 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 Governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Governors, as the company directors, on 27 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

R Hoyles
Chair

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, 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 St Mary's Catholic Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. She is also responsible for reporting to the board of Governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

To deliver assurance the governors have established a programme of risk review and checking of financial controls by the performance of a supplementary programme of work by the school's external auditor. Reports are submitted to the Resources and Audit Committee for consideration and review and for submission to the full governing body. These arrangements can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Governance

The Governors have formally met ten times during the year, four times as a Full Governing Body and six times as delegated sub-committees.

Attendance during the year at the Full Governing Body meetings was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
R Hoyles (Chair)	4	4
P Biggenden (Resigned 30 September 2024)	4	4
M Costello (Appointed 18 October 2024)	0	0
M Dako (Appointed 17 May 2024)	1	1
M Fahey (Appointed 17 November 2023)	3	3
F Fear	4	4
H Hawkins (Appointed 13 November 2023)	3	3
J Hayes (Resigned 27 September 2023)	2	2
B Johnston	4	4
E Keenan-O'Malley	3	4
D Lettington	3	4
P Monaghan (Chair of Resources & Audit)	3	4
L Varughese	2	4
I Vassallo (Accounting officer)	4	4
E Wigner (Resigned 11 January 2024)	2	2
E Woods (Appointed 22 May 2024)	1	1
B Yussuf	4	4

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

During the reporting period, one Governor resigned, and four new Governors were appointed. E Wigner, a staff governor resigned due to a change in employment. E Woods, an experienced teacher, was elected to fill the staff governor vacancy on 11 January 2024, left by E Wigner. H Hawkins and M Dako was appointed as Foundation governors whereas M Fahey was elected as parent governor. There are no vacancies at the end of the reporting period.

The Governing Body understands its responsibilities for ensuring delivery of high standards of corporate governance and overseeing strategies designed to enhance and develop educational standards and levels of achievement for children at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

The Governing Body exercises its powers and functions with a view to fulfilling its strategic leadership role in the running of the school, addressing such matters as:

- policy development and strategic planning, including target-setting to maintain focus on school improvement;
- ensuring sound management and administration of the school, and ensuring that managers are equipped with relevant skills and guidance;
- ensuring compliance with legal requirements;
- establishing and maintaining a transparent system of prudent and effective internal controls;
- management of the school's financial, human and other resources
- monitoring performance and the achievement of objectives, and ensuring that plans for improvement are well-focused and acted upon;
- helping the school to be responsive to the needs of parents, Church and the wider community and making it more accountable through consultation and reporting.

To these ends the Governors have created two sub-committees, Resources and Audit, and Standards and Achievement, and approve annually a Scheme of Delegation. The committees are responsible to the Governing Body for overseeing respectively the following:

- finance, premises and property, health and safety, human resources and audit; and
- curriculum planning and delivery, assessment and improvement, safeguarding, talent management and engagement.

In accordance with the annually approved Terms of Reference for each committee both convene regularly and report their findings and activities to the full Governing Body.

During the year the Governors and Senior Leadership Team have ensured that resources have been directed to where they are most needed and most effective in meeting the diverse educational requirements of the children.

The school's varied curriculum has always ensured that all children have had the opportunity to raise their individual levels of attainment and to achieve ambitious progress targets. Additional catch-up tuition has been provided to pupils, addressing any learning gaps caused by disruptions from COVID-19.

The school has focused on the individual needs of each child and this is reflected in the continued high standards in the performance of our children which are consistently above the national average at the end of each Key Stage.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team have ensured that resources have been targeted in line with the School Improvement Plan's priorities and have been reviewed regularly to ensure the best outcomes for children's progress and attainment.

Assessment, tracking and monitoring processes are continually being reviewed and developed to ensure data is used to inform planning, target interventions and support differentiation. Performance data is a key element of the termly headteacher's report.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governors and senior members of staff have deployed staff to provide best value in terms of quality teaching, quality of learning, adult pupil ratio and curriculum management. With due regard to financial prudence, the Governors, on the recommendation of the SLT, have approved the employment of additional specialist staff in the curriculum areas of PE, Music and Modern Foreign Languages to ensure high quality subject delivery and of Teaching Assistants to effectively support class teachers delivering enhanced teaching and to implement intervention programmes and booster classes.

The Governors require the SLT to regularly review the staffing structure by observation and performance management to ensure effective teaching practices and quality first teaching.

For those children who attract Pupil Premium funding or have identified needs, there is access to a variety of intervention programmes on a one to one basis or in small groups. Funding for these children is allocated to optimal effect as indicated by the detailed breakdown on the school website.

Universal Free School meals continue to be implemented successfully for all our Reception and Key Stage One children to provide nutritional meals daily. The Local Authority has continued to provide vouchers to children eligible for free school meals throughout the holiday periods.

Conflicts of Interest

Governors are required to disclose any conflicts of interests that may exist. An annual declaration is provided to the school by Governors. This is reviewed at the start of every Full Governing Body meeting and sub-committee meeting

Governance reviews

The Trust commissioned an External Review of Governance (ERG) in July 2024. As part of the review an evaluation has been undertaken reviewing the effectiveness and impact of the trust's governance structure.

The ERG summary report detailed five areas for consideration for the Trust, which were:

1. Determining the vision and strategic direction
2. Holding senior executive leaders to account for pupil outcomes
3. Overseeing finances
4. Stakeholder engagement
5. Ensuring appropriate governance structures – people
6. Ensuring appropriate governance structures – processes

Key findings included:

- Trustees on this board know the school and its community well and are passionate around providing the best quality Catholic education for its pupils. Trustees are interested not just in academic results, but in the whole pupil experience.
- The board comprises some skilled and experienced individuals from the education, finance, business, health and legal sectors. The board is full, stable and recruitment, when necessary, is geared as far as possible towards strengthening the skills base.
- The board fulfils its core functions well:
 - an agreed vision and strong ethos run through discussions and shape decision making.
 - outcomes for pupils are strong and the board is provided with a good range of data. However, too few trustees are aware of the key improvement priorities for the school and these priorities are not sufficiently central to discussions.
 - the board is aware of the importance of stakeholder engagement and regularly hears from pupils, parents and staff.
 - the board understands the finances and ensures the money is spent well.

Recommendations will form part of the School Improvement Plan in 2024-25.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governing Body undertakes a regular Skills Audit. Having up to date information on the skills base of the Governing Body has served to ensure there are the necessary skills, breadth of experience and personal qualities needed to sustain and enhance the workings of the Governors at St Mary's. The findings of the skills audit are discussed at a full Governing Body meeting and are then used to ensure the Governing Body has appropriate experience, expertise and representation from many areas to achieve its aim of delivering the best possible outcomes for its stakeholders.

The Resources and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Governing Body and its purpose is to have oversight of the following elements of the school's operation: finance, premises and property, health and safety, human resources and personnel and audit. The committee assists in the decision making of the Governing Body by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the school's finances and resources. It oversees the annual budget, reporting regularly to the full Governing Body, by monitoring income and expenditure, agreeing limits of expenditure delegation, reviewing and monitoring all policies under the scope of the committee's remit, as delegated by the Governing Body, ensuring compliance with the Procurement and Tendering Policy, Best Value Statement and Academies Trust Handbook and by ensuring that financial control systems are robust. Additionally, the committee monitors, evaluates and reviews the school's policy and practice in relation to premises and property, human resources and personnel. Finally, within its extended remit the committee is responsible for audit, in particular: governance, risk management and internal control. The committee's work focuses on providing assurances to the Governing Body that risks are being adequately identified and managed by reviewing the reports and taking advice from the external auditors and by agreeing a programme of work to address and provide assurance on those risks.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
M Fahey (Appointed 17 November 2023)	1	1
F Fear	3	3
H Hawkins (Appointed 13 November 2023)	2	2
J Hayes (Resigned 27 September 2023)	0	2
E Keenan-O'Malley	1	3
P Monaghan (Chair of Resources & Audit)	3	3
L Varughese	1	3
I Vassallo (Accounting officer)	3	3

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Review of value for money

The Headteacher, as accounting officer, has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Headteacher understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Headteacher, working with the School Business Manager, considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the Governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. Improved value for money has been delivered during the year specifically to improve educational outcomes and to enhance the working environment for staff and children alike.

Resources have been directed to where they are most needed and most effective in meeting diverse educational requirements. We have focused on the individual needs of each child and this is reflected in the performance standards of our children. Additional specialist staff have been employed in the areas of PE, Music and Modern Foreign Languages to ensure high quality subject delivery. Teaching Assistants have been employed to support teachers delivering enhanced teaching and to implement intervention programmes and booster classes.

Benchmarking and price comparisons proved that the school's relationships with its vendors deliver value for money with no compromise on quality.

The school received Condition Improvement Funding which was used to rewire outdated electrical wiring throughout the school. This necessary project, which included fitting of additional emergency lights, ensured that the school will remain safe for pupils for years to come and the school now holds a valid Electrical Inspection Condition Report.

The school's premises are maintained as per the DfE's good estate management guidance and a recent condition survey reported that the building and grounds were in good condition

Financial governance and oversight

Financial governance and oversight is strong in our academy. Our Governing body has considerable financial, legal and management experience. We have developed a strong Resources and Audit committee which includes qualified personnel.

Monthly management accounts are produced and discussed with senior managers and the Governing Body to ensure value for money.

Spending proposals are costed and presented to senior leaders and governors and a business case is produced to support major investments. All proposals are challenged appropriately at all levels.

Regular Budget to Actual comparisons are produced and explained to senior staff and governors by the School Business Manager.

All contracts are reviewed when renewed to ensure the academy's interests are secured and are fit for purpose and provide best value. Consideration is given to both local and national contractors in determining best value before any commitment is made. All economies of cost are investigated by senior management to ensure efficient services are provided to children and staff. Evidence shows that the school ensures that multiple tenders are sourced where appropriate to ensure Value for Money.

Cash Flow is important and regular reporting together with projections are provided to enhance management of the school's financial resources.

The school undertook internal audits informed by the risk register with advice from the finance and audit and committee. The programme of internal scrutiny included Health and Safety, Data Protection, Governance, termly visits by a School Improvement Partner and internal safeguarding audits.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Governors 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 Governors 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Governors.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Governing Body has developed a programme of internal scrutiny informed by the trust's risk register, with advice from the audit and risk committee. The risk review process is iterative and the findings of the programme of internal scrutiny in return inform the risk register.

Internal scrutiny reports are provided to the Governing Body so that key findings, recommendations and conclusions can be considered and actioned.

During the period ending 31 August 2024, the programme of internal scrutiny included:

- Health and Safety management, Premises and Personal Welfare
- Data Protection
- Governance
- Standards (School Improvement Partner)

The Governors confirm the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues arose as a result of the internal auditor's work.

- The Review of effectiveness within Governance statements should be reviewed and expanded if needed. Must include the extent of the review, identify the areas that have informed the review and a conclusion on whether the trust has adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor, including a thorough Health and Safety audit (including management, premises and personal welfare) and Data Protection Audit the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- The work of the senior managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- an external review of governance, including determining the vision and strategic direction; holding senior executives to account; overseeing finances; stakeholder engagement; ensuring appropriate governance structures – people; ensuring appropriate governance – processes
- internal safeguarding reviews by Headteacher and against an audit tool.
- termly visits by the School Improvement partner to review the school improvement plan and progress against it
- A graded Ofsted inspection in July 2024

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of Governors on 27 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

R Hoyles
Chair

I Vassallo
Accounting officer

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of Governors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estate safety and management.

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

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

I Vassallo
Accounting Officer

27 November 2024

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governors (who act as trustees for St Mary's Catholic Primary School and are also the directors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the governors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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 Governors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors on 27 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

R Hoyles
Chair

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of St Mary's Catholic Primary School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the 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 2023 to 2024 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 governors' 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 Governors 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 Governors 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.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 governors' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the governors' 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 governors' 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 governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the statement of governors' responsibilities, the Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 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.

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

Use of our report

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

Scott Browning FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

16 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
United Kingdom
DA14 5RH

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 15 July 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Mary's Catholic Primary School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to St Mary's Catholic Primary School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the St Mary's Catholic Primary School 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 St Mary's Catholic Primary School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St Mary's Catholic Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Mary's Catholic Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 October 2014 and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Dated: 16 December 2024

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	41	32	206	279	244
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	2	2,261	-	2,263	2,108
Other trading activities	5	150	-	-	150	79
Investments	6	2	-	-	2	-
Total		195	2,293	206	2,694	2,431
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	114	2,168	67	2,349	2,509
Total	7	114	2,168	67	2,349	2,509
Net income/(expenditure)		81	125	139	345	(78)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(34)	34	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	70	-	70	238
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(96)	-	(96)	(149)
Net movement in funds		81	65	173	319	11
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		213	3	3,854	4,070	4,059
Total funds carried forward		294	68	4,027	4,389	4,070

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds £'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	40	24	180	244
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	51	2,057	-	2,108
Other trading activities	5	79	-	-	79
Total		170	2,081	180	2,431
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	74	2,370	65	2,509
Total	7	74	2,370	65	2,509
Net income/(expenditure)		96	(289)	115	(78)
Transfers between funds	17	(124)	286	(162)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	238	-	238
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(149)	-	(149)
Net movement in funds		(28)	86	(47)	11
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		241	(83)	3,901	4,059
Total funds carried forward		213	3	3,854	4,070

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		3,905		3,854
Current assets					
Debtors	14	95		71	
Cash at bank and in hand		733		334	
		<u>828</u>		<u>405</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(344)		(189)	
Net current assets			484		216
Net assets excluding pension asset			4,389		4,070
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	19		-		-
Total net assets			<u>4,389</u>		<u>4,070</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			4,027		3,854
- Restricted income funds			68		3
Total restricted funds			<u>4,095</u>		<u>3,857</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		294		213
Total funds			<u>4,389</u>		<u>4,070</u>

The accounts on pages 29 to 53 were approved by the Governors and authorised for issue on 27 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

R Hoyles
Chair

Company registration number 09258843 (England and Wales)

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		309		(297)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		2		-	
Capital grants from DfE Group		206		320	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(118)		(18)	
Net cash provided by investing activities			90		302
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			399		5
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			334		329
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			733		334
Relating to:					
Bank and cash balances			540		243
Short term deposits			193		91

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

St Mary's Catholic Primary School 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 governors' 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Governors 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 Governors 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.

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.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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.

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

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.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the Academy was established are included in the accounts at cost. Assets costing less than £1,000 or groups of the same assets amounting to £3,000 are written off in the year of acquisition. All other assets are capitalised.

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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds the cost is transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund, depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund.

In accordance with the accounting treatment set out by the Academies accounts direction the land and buildings have been included as an asset in the financial statements.

The Land and buildings has been included at the valuation provided by the ESFA when completing its desktop valuation.

The academy trust has a Licence for the use of the land and buildings from the voluntary aided school's trustees, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark under a church supplemental agreement. There is also a Deed of Release in place between the academy trust and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the land element.

The Church Supplemental Agreement is a rolling agreement with a minimum two years written notice period for termination, no such notice has been given at the date of signing the accounts.

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:

Buildings	50 years
Leasehold land	Not depreciated as licence for use is perpetuity as long as used as a school
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years

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.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 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.

1.10 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.

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.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 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 Governors.

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education.

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.

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 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The pension value also includes an asset ceiling adjustment and the assumptions used to calculate this are:

- The scheme is open to new entrants;
- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to the LGPS;
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period;
- The present value in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

Critical areas of judgement

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 13 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1.5 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Capital grants	-	206	206	180
Other donations	41	32	73	64
	<u>41</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>279</u>	<u>244</u>

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,821	1,821	1,761
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	79	79	76
- Pupil premium	-	47	47	44
- PE and sports premium	-	19	19	20
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	50
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	60	60	25
- Teachers' pay grant	-	31	31	-
- Others	-	43	43	33
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,009</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	150	150	48
	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>48</u>
Other incoming resources	2	11	13	51
	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>51</u>
Total funding	<u>2</u>	<u>2,261</u>	<u>2,263</u>	<u>2,108</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	76	-	76	65
Other income	74	-	74	14
	<u>150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>79</u>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Investment income	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Short term deposits	2	-	2	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Expenditure	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,484	56	110	1,650	1,633
- Allocated support costs	299	154	246	699	876
	<u>1,783</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>2,349</u>	<u>2,509</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	13	12
- Other services	2	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	67	65
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(13)	3
	<u>69</u>	<u>83</u>

8 Analysis of grant expenditure	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the academy trust	-	102	102	153
	<u>-</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>153</u>

During the year, boiler works were undertaken within the school buildings which have been largely funded by CIF grants, with school contributions also included (2023: Electrical works). Costs are recognised within transfers between funds.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	95	1,555	1,650	1,633
Support costs				
Educational operations	19	680	699	876
	<u>114</u>	<u>2,235</u>	<u>2,349</u>	<u>2,509</u>
			2024	2023
			£'000	£'000
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs			299	373
Depreciation			11	8
Technology costs			10	8
Premises costs			143	272
Legal costs			3	3
Other support costs			220	196
Governance costs			13	16
			<u>699</u>	<u>876</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Wages and salaries	1,349	1,354
Social security costs	129	128
Pension costs	305	322
	<u>1,783</u>	<u>1,804</u>
Amounts paid to employees	1,783	1,804
Agency staff costs	-	30
	<u>1,783</u>	<u>1,834</u>
Amounts paid to staff	1,783	1,834
Staff development and other staff costs	6	5
	<u>1,789</u>	<u>1,839</u>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	19	19
Administration and support	33	30
Management	4	3
	<u>56</u>	<u>52</u>

The average FTE over the year was as follows: Teachers 13.7 (2023: 16.2), Admin and Support 14.1 (2023: 17.8), Management 4.0 (2023: 3.0).

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust are the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £366k (4 staff) (2023: £335k - 4 staff)

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Governors' remuneration and expenses

The Headteacher and other staff Governors only receive remuneration and expenses (if any) in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as Governors. Other Governors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as Governors. During the year,

The value of governors' remuneration was as follows:

I Vassallo (Headteacher)

Remuneration £90,001 - £95,000 (2023: £80,001 - £85,000)

Employers Pension Contributions £20,001 - £25,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)

E Woods (staff appointed 22 May 2024)

Remuneration £50,001 - £55,000 (2023: £nil)

Employers Pension Contributions £10,001 - £15,000 (2023: £nil)

B Yussuf (staff)

Remuneration £45,001 - £50,000 (2023: £40,001 - £45,000)

Employers Pension Contributions £nil - £5,000 (2023: £nil)

E Wigner (staff resigned 11 January 2024)

Remuneration £5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)

Employers Pension Contributions £nil - £5,000 (2023: £nil - £5,000)

There was £nil re-imbursed to governors in the year (2023: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the Governors are set out within the related parties note.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, 50% of I Vassallo's time was spent as Executive Headteacher at St Chad's Catholic Primary School and 50% of the associated costs, as disclosed in notes 10 and 11 have been reimbursed to the Academy Trust as disclosed in Note 24 (Related Party Transactions)

12 Governors' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim, however the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 could not be ascertained as it was included with all insurance (2023: Included with all insurance).

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and Buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	4,330	62	176	4,568
Additions	-	13	105	118
	—	—	—	—
At 31 August 2024	4,330	75	281	4,686
	—	—	—	—
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	502	55	157	714
Charge for the year	56	6	5	67
	—	—	—	—
At 31 August 2024	558	61	162	781
	—	—	—	—
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	3,772	14	119	3,905
	=====	=====	=====	=====
At 31 August 2023	3,828	7	19	3,854
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The carrying value of land included in land and buildings was £1,504k (2023: £1,504k) and was not depreciated.

14 Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	24	9
VAT recoverable	28	9
Other debtors	5	8
Prepayments and accrued income	38	45
	—	—
	95	71
	=====	=====

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	123	25
Other taxation and social security	28	26
Other creditors	40	33
Accruals and deferred income	153	105
	—	—
	344	189
	=====	=====

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Deferred income

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	88	57
	<u>88</u>	<u>57</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	57	49
Released from previous years	(57)	(49)
Resources deferred in the year	88	57
	<u>88</u>	<u>57</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	88	57
	<u>88</u>	<u>57</u>

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for universal infant free school meals, rates relief, local authority funding and advanced trip income paid in advance.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,821	(1,719)	(34)	68
UIFSM	-	79	(79)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	47	(47)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	153	(153)	-	-
Other government grants	-	150	(150)	-	-
Other restricted funds	3	43	(46)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	26	(26)	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2,293</u>	<u>(2,168)</u>	<u>(60)</u>	<u>68</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>2,293</u>	<u>(2,168)</u>	<u>(60)</u>	<u>68</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	-	206	-	(84)	122
General fixed assets	3,854	-	(67)	118	3,905
	<u>3,854</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>(67)</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>4,027</u>
	<u>3,854</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>(67)</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>4,027</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,857</u>	<u>2,499</u>	<u>(2,235)</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>4,095</u>
	<u>3,857</u>	<u>2,499</u>	<u>(2,235)</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>4,095</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	213	195	(114)	-	294
	<u>213</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>(114)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>294</u>
	<u>213</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>(114)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>294</u>
Total funds	<u>4,070</u>	<u>2,694</u>	<u>(2,349)</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>4,389</u>
	<u>4,070</u>	<u>2,694</u>	<u>(2,349)</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>4,389</u>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy.

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

UIFSM, Pupil Premium: Income received from the ESFA as described.

Other DfE/ESFA grants: This includes the rates grant, mentoring and tutoring grants, PE and sports premium, recovery grant, supplementary grants, teachers pay grant and mainstream schools additional grant.

Other Government Grants includes SEN funding.

Other restricted funds: This includes PTA donations for educational supplies and equipment.

DfE/ESFA capital grants: This is devolved formula capital and CIF grants.

Transfer of funds relate to the purchase of fixed assets during the period and the use of capital grants for repairs and maintenance.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	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)	-	1,761	(2,047)	286	-
UIFSM	-	76	(76)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	44	(44)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	128	(128)	-	-
Other government grants	-	48	(48)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	24	(21)	-	3
Pension reserve	(83)	-	(6)	89	-
	<u>(83)</u>	<u>2,081</u>	<u>(2,370)</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>3</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	-	180	-	(180)	-
General fixed assets	3,901	-	(65)	18	3,854
	<u>3,901</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>(65)</u>	<u>(162)</u>	<u>3,854</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,818</u>	<u>2,261</u>	<u>(2,435)</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>3,857</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	241	170	(74)	(124)	213
	<u>241</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(124)</u>	<u>213</u>
Total funds	<u>4,059</u>	<u>2,431</u>	<u>(2,509)</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>4,070</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,905	3,905
Current assets	294	412	122	828
Current liabilities	-	(344)	-	(344)
	<u>294</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>4,027</u>	<u>4,389</u>
Total net assets	<u>294</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>4,027</u>	<u>4,389</u>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	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	-	-	3,854	3,854
Current assets	213	192	-	405
Current liabilities	-	(189)	-	(189)
Total net assets	<u>213</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3,854</u>	<u>4,070</u>

19 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 London Borough of Bromley. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £38k (2023: £33k) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' 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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

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

The employers pension costs paid to the TPS (employers and employees) in the period amounted to £215k (2023: £186k).

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

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

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 21.33% 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	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Employer's contributions	103	54
Employees' contributions	29	12
Total contributions	132	66

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

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

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.7	21.7
- Females	24.1	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.7	22.7
- Females	25.7	25.7

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(29)	(25)
Discount rate - 0.1%	29	25
Mortality assumption + 1 year	40	34
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(39)	(33)
CPI rate + 0.1%	29	25
CPI rate - 0.1%	(29)	(25)

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Scheme assets	2,109	1,798
Scheme obligations	(1,864)	(1,649)
Net asset	245	149
Restriction on scheme assets	(245)	(149)
Total liability recognised	-	-

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £'000	2023 Fair value £'000
Equities	1,184	1,121
Government bonds	57	45
Other bonds	232	144
Cash	162	50
Property	124	111
Other assets	350	327
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	2,109	1,798
Restriction on scheme assets	(245)	(149)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	1,864	1,649
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £215,000 (2023: £(134,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	85	57
Interest income	(100)	(83)
Interest cost	87	86
Administration expenses	5	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amount recognised	77	60
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	1,649	2,005
Current service cost	85	57
Interest cost	87	86
Employee contributions	29	12
Actuarial loss/(gain)	45	(455)
Benefits paid	(31)	(56)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	1,864	1,649
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	1,798	1,922
Interest income	100	83
Actuarial (gain)/loss	115	(217)
Employer contributions	103	54
Employee contributions	29	12
Benefits paid	(31)	(56)
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(5)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	2,109	1,798
Restriction on scheme assets	(245)	(149)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	1,864	1,649
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Included within the pension assets above is an "asset ceiling adjustment". The asset ceiling is the present value of the economic benefits that the employer can recover from the plan, such as reduced contributions or cash refunds. It is deemed for the Trust that the future costs expected for the employers contributions will outweigh the future service costs and therefore there is no economic benefit to the Trust and therefore the asset value is reduced to zero.

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		345	(78)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(206)	(180)
Investment income receivable	6	(2)	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	(13)	3
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	19	(13)	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		67	65
(Increase) in debtors		(24)	(41)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		155	(69)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		309	(297)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
Cash	243	297	540
Cash equivalents	91	102	193
	<u>334</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>733</u>

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	-	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

23 Capital commitments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	171	-
	<u>171</u>	<u>-</u>

The commitments above relate to a boiler project in progress at 31 August 2024. The commitment represents costs contracted but not paid at year end. The project is being funded by CIF grants and contributions by the Trust.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Mrs Hayes and Mrs Monaghan, who are both spouses of Trustees, are employed by the academy trust as Teaching Assistants. Their appointments were made in open competition and their respective spouses were not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. The Teaching Assistant's are paid within the normal pay scale for their role and neither receives special treatment as a result of their relationship to a trustee.

I Vassallo, Trustee and Headteacher, is also Executive Headteacher and Trustee for St Chad's Catholic Primary School. During the year, income was generated from St Chad's Catholic Primary School of £64k (2023: £nil) towards a share of related payroll expenses associated with this post. A balance of £11k was due to St Mary's Catholic Primary School at 31 August 2024. (2023 - £nil).

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 01 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account.

25 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.