

DFE Copy

Company registration number 07726649 (England and Wales)

OLD EARTH SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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OLD EARTH SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mrs J Day
Mr P Reynolds
Mrs S Fairbairn
Mrs K Thornton
Mr M Wragg
Mr D Burns

Trustees

Mrs A Aspin (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 1 September 2022)
Mr C Blakebrough (Parent trustee)
Mrs J Booth (Parent trustee)
Mrs J Day (Community trustee) (Resigned 1 September 2022)
Mrs R Freeman (Staff trustee) (Resigned 17 August 2023)
Mr J Stevens (Local authority trustee)
Mrs K Thornton (Co-Chair of trustees) (Resigned 17 August 2023)
Mr M Wragg (Co-Chair of trustees) (Resigned 1 September 2022)
Mrs N Spensley (Staff trustee) (Resigned 1 September 2022)
Mr B Hodgson (Parent trustee)
Mrs L Price (Parent trustee)
Mr D Burns (Headteacher)
Mrs K Walker (Staff trustee)
Miss E Townley (Staff trustee) (Appointed 21 September 2023)
Mrs H I Dean (Appointed 2 March 2023)
Mrs V J Thwaite (Appointed 2 March 2023)
Mrs F Stephenson (Appointed 2 March 2023)
Mrs L Jackson (Appointed 2 March 2023 and resigned 27 October 2023)

Senior management team

- Headteacher Mr D Burns
- Assistant Headteacher Mrs J Taylor
- Deputy Headteacher Mrs E Dixon

Company registration number

07726649 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Lower Edge Road
Elland
HX5 9PL

Independent auditor

Simpson Wood Limited
Bank Chambers
Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2EW

Bankers

Virgin Money
7 Waterhouse Street
Halifax
HX1 1XZ

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Ramsdens Solicitors LLP
Oakley House
1 Hungerford Road, Edgerton
Huddersfield
HD3 3AL

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 2 to 11, which is located at Lower Edge a suburb of Elland in the Calder Valley. It has a pupil capacity of 500 (420 children in Reception to Year 6) and had a roll of 493 (420 in Reception to Year 6) in October 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The trustees of Old Earth School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Old Earth School.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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 unlimited cover for professional indemnity.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The school may appoint up to 12 trustees and the members may appoint staff trustees who do not exceed 1/3 of the total of trustees. The Local Authority may appoint a trustee and the Headteacher is deemed to be an official trustee.

The number of trustees will not be less than three and the members may co-opt up to 1 trustee. There will be a minimum of two parent trustees. When there is a vacancy for a parent trustee, the school makes sure that all parents have the potential to apply to become a trustee. The school ensures that if there is a vote it is undertaken fairly and managed properly with the results made public to all concerned. The school can co-opt additional trustees who are not members of staff. The number of trustees who are staff members will not exceed one third of the Board of Trustees.

All trustees terms of office are four years unless they retire/resign. This does not apply to the Headteacher.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Academy is a member of the National Governance Association, an independent charity that aims to improve the educational standards and wellbeing of children and young people by supporting and promoting outstanding governance in schools and academies. The Academy has also subscribed to The Key for Governors, a national information service that provides trustees with guidance, insight, and instant answers to questions on all aspects of school governance. The Academy receives weekly updates on governance matters from the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Key for Governors, and trustees have completed several online training modules provided by both. The Academy also has a Service Level Agreement with Calderdale Local Authority for trustee training.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees meets as Full Governing Board at least termly and has two main sub-committees, Finance, General Purposes, staffing and personnel and Curriculum and Standards. All Trustees serve on one of these two committees which meet at least termly or more regularly. Trustees are also named in other sub committee groups which meet when there is a need to do so.

The Trustees are responsible for: setting strategic policy; challenging the school; adopting an annual plan and a balanced three-year budget; monitoring the Academy budgets; and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

Trustees had made a decision to change their structure during the 2021-22 academic year so that it consists of two levels, Members and Trustees. The Department for Education approved the changes to the school's updated Articles of Association in June 2022. The aim of this structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision-making at all levels. A scheme of delegation was developed and implemented from 1st September 2022 and has been agreed for the 2023-24 academic year.

The school management team is made up of the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher, the Assistant Headteacher, the Key Stage 1 phase leader and the Key Stage 2 phase leader. These managers control the Academy at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. The Headteacher is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff through appointment boards. Some spending control is devolved to members of the management team with financial limits above which Trustees must agree the expenditure. The management team is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Academy, organising the teaching staff, facilities, and students. The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher are also trained Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The Principal is the Accounting Officer.

Mr Daniel Burns has been in post since January 2021.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Board of Trustees has adopted a pay and grading policy to provide a clear framework for the exercise of its powers and discretions in relation to all staff employed in the school and paid from within the school budget.

The Board of Trustees is committed to taking all relevant decisions in accordance with the principles of public life as listed in DfE guidance (namely objectivity, openness and accountability), and believes that this pay policy will help to recruit, retain and motivate teachers, will provide the basis for sound financial and personnel planning and will minimise the risk of grievance and discrimination.

Pay decisions at this Academy are made by the Board of Trustees which has delegated certain responsibilities and decision-making powers to the Pay Panel (as defined below).

The Pay Panel will be responsible for the establishment and review of the pay and grading policy (subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees) and will have full authority to take pay decisions relating to teachers, as advised by the Principal (or as advised by the Principal Performance Management Committee with regard to the Principal's pay decisions) on behalf of the Board of Trustees in accordance with this policy.

The Board of Trustees, in determining and publishing its pay and grading policy, aims to ensure that all decisions taken on pay and remuneration are justifiable and fair.

With reference to all posts, appraisal reviews will be deemed to be successful unless significant concerns about the standards of performance have been raised in writing with the employee during the annual appraisal cycle and, by the conclusion of that process, have not been successfully addressed through support provided by the Academy.

The evidence used will be only that available through the appraisal process. Fairness will be assured by annual monitoring of the application of the pay and grading policy and pay decisions will be moderated as outlined in the appraisal policy to ensure consistency. The arrangements for teacher appraisal are set out in the Academy's appraisal policy.

Principal Appraisal - following advice and guidance from their external advisor(s), the trustees will seek to agree objectives with the Principal which will be set either before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. Relevant Principals' standards will be used to assess performance.

Teacher Appraisal - objectives for each teacher will be set before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. Teachers may be assessed within the set of standards contained in the 'Teachers' Standards' and any other relevant national standards considered by the Principal to be appropriate, e.g., QTLS, etc.

Other Staff - objectives for other staff within the Academy should reflect the minimum standards where appropriate for that area of work. Where national occupational standards exist (e.g., to support teaching and learning in the classroom) these should be adapted to suit individual requirements and help to raise performance in accordance with the school improvement plan.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There is an active Parents, Teachers and Friends Association associated with the Academy. Old Earth School is a member of the Elland Cluster, which is a collaboration for self-improving schools.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Academy Trust's object ("the Object") is specifically restricted to the following:

To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, strategies and activities

The vision - "Opportunity, Support, Respect."

Old Earth School will provide all children with every opportunity to achieve their full potential. We ensure a supportive, friendly, safe and secure environment in which everyone is respected. In return we expect the highest standards of work and behaviour.

The Aims

- To place children at the centre of learning, where they feel safe, work hard and are happy.
- To have a committed staff who inspire and motivate individual children to achieve their highest standards.
- To have a well informed School and Community that feels valued, is well served, and plays an integral role in School Life.
- To be proud of our school and promote an ethos and environment in which children enjoy growing up and everybody matters.

In 2021-22 the school launched a 3 year School Improvement Plan. 2022-23 was the second year of this plan. The Strategic goals are;

- Children will reach the highest levels of achievement and personal development across the curriculum.
- Children develop a love of learning and passion to aim high and be world class as a result of a highly engaging curriculum.
- Our staff continue to be highly ambitious leaders of learning and have an uncompromising drive to ensure the highest levels of achievement for all our children.
- Home and school partnerships are strong enabling children to thrive in a supportive, highly cohesive learning community.

Key actions: this is not an exhaustive list but identifies some of the key initiatives that leaders have implemented to support the achievement of the strategic objectives and ensure the Academy grows and implements its vision.

The School Development Priorities for the 2022-23 academic year were as follows:

High quality teaching and targeted academic support.

- 1) High quality daily teaching: 'five-a-day' approach.
- 2) Improving literacy and mathematics outcomes;
- 3) Effective strategies for 'Catch up' to complement high quality classroom teaching to accelerate the progress of all children.
 - Strategies will be personalised to specific cohorts and individuals through the RAP process.
 - The focus will be on reading, disadvantaged and SEND/vulnerable pupils.

The staff teaching team has started work to devise and implement a whole school consistent approach to teaching and learning. Two members of the staff team have completed National Professional Qualifications in relation to this. The focus of the next academic year will be to implement more subject specific approaches.

Class and Year group 3I's were reviewed through progress meetings three times during the academic year. There was a clear focus on the bottom 20%, pupils with additional needs and vulnerabilities impacting on their attainment and progress.

Outcomes in reading, writing and maths were above the national averages in all phases for pupils achieving national expectations (Reception, Year 1 / 2 phonics, Key Stage 1 assessments and Key Stage 2 tests). Across Year 1, 3 and 5 cohorts' attainment was in line with FFT50 estimates.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Catch up and recovery premium funding was targeted in Year 2 (phonics catch up and reading) and Year 6 were taught in three groups of no more than 20 for English and Maths. The school implemented "Little Wandle" as an approach to teaching phonics and early reading. Catch up phonics sessions were implemented into lower Key Stage 2. Accelerated Reader has been implemented across Key Stage 2. Progress and attainment of the disadvantaged pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 was one of the many successes of the academic year.

Developing outstanding curriculum provision

- 1) Early Reading from EYFS through to reading at the end of Key Stage 2 will be enhanced further to include high quality phonics provision, reading through the curriculum and reading for pleasure.
- 2) Our new curriculum and schemes of work in all key stages to be kept under review and introduce subject specific developments and enhancements including trips, visits and visitors.
- 3) All schemes of work which have been in place prior to 2021-22 to be reviewed. (English, Maths, RE, Computing).
- 4) Subject areas and individual lessons have clear 'end points' and for children to know more and remember more over time.
- 5) Assessment procedures in all subjects to be reviewed and refined.

- The early reading approach is having impact. Phonics scores are pleasing across EYFS and Key Stage 1. The school approach to reading for pleasure was highlighted by Ofsted as one of the school's areas of good practice. This has been shared and observed by staff from other local schools. Accelerated reading (independent reading approach) and the whole class approach to reading and comprehension has been implemented successfully across Key Stage 2 and the performance of all cohorts in reading is matching the FFTD estimates at the current time.
- Staff and children report enjoying the curriculum that is provided. Ofsted highlighted that the intent of this goes above and beyond the National Curriculum and that it is appropriate and engages all groups of pupils including SEND. Trips and visits remain integral across the academic year. The brilliant links with local community groups and the use of Elland and Calderdale as an integral learning resource have been sustained and enhanced from the previous academic year.
- The English and Maths curriculum remain effective in securing good outcomes for all pupils. These are under review and will be a focus for the whole school to develop in the 2023-24 academic year. Religious Education was a focus for an external deep dive review and the subject group have an action plan which they started to work on during the academic year. There is a local syllabus review under way and a new syllabus expected to be agreed during the 2023-24 academic year. The computing curriculum is supported well by the Purple Mash curriculum. The subject development group has been working with the provider to develop progression and assessment documents.
- The development work on the whole school approach to teaching and learning will identify teaching structures which support this. Further development work within specific subject areas will continue in the 2023-24 academic year.
- There has been some development of the assessment process as Ofsted identified that the way the school was working was effective in demonstrating that pupils "Know more and remember more" over time. Subject leader groups will look at further ways to ensure that this is effective and manageable from a staff workload angle.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Wider strategies

1) Focus on pupils' well-being and mental health.

- Focus on health and well-being through active curriculum, healthy lifestyles, seeds of happiness, trips, visits (including residential visits) and visitors, before and after school provision plus playtime and lunchtime provision. The school will remain part of the Calderdale Mental Health Support Team.

2) Safeguarding will continue to be the highest priority for all staff and pupils will be able to articulate how to stay safe at school, at home and online.

3) Improving attendance so it returns to pre-pandemic levels (97%).

4) Improving behaviour, routines and relationships.

5) Engagement with parents/carers and the local community

- The school has excelled in its approach to pupil well-being and mental health. The Deputy Headteacher has been a lead professional in the local development of the Mental Health Support Team. The school has had two Mental Health support practitioners who have worked closely with the school, families and the children. This continues to be a significant part of the school's work and the case load numbers remain high.

As highlighted in the previous section the school continues to offer a wide range of curriculum linked trips, visits and visitors including two residential visits in Key Stage 2 (Year 4 and Year 6) and an overnight stay in Year 5. The school has used its PE and Sports Premium funding to provide a high-quality PE curriculum and extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. Extra swimming sessions have been offered and the school has worked in partnership with a range of external partners to offer a wide range of clubs and experiences for pupils.

Ofsted identified that pupil's enjoy school, feel they have a voice and play a significant role in the school. The wide range of roles and responsibilities have been maintained and new opportunities such as digital leaders and Peace Ambassadors have been embraced and will run into the 23-24 academic year. The school worked with "Phunky Foods" and "Better Lunchtimes" to evaluate this provision. A new approach to lunchtime arrangements was trialled and this will be developed in the next academic year along with a new whole school food approach following changes to the school catering provision.

- Ofsted identified that Safeguarding was effective. The school continues to pride itself on the way that it promotes and prioritises this area of its work. The school worked in partnership with a range of providers to address some significant issues that were presented during the academic year.

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders ensure that staff understand safeguarding risks to pupils and how to recognise the indicators of harm. Staff receive regular safeguarding training sessions and updates. They are knowledgeable and report any concerns in an appropriate and timely way. Leaders have developed a curriculum that teaches pupils how to stay safe, both online and in the world in which they live. They regularly review and revise their curriculum based on any pertinent information. Staff know how to deliver the curriculum effectively so that pupils understand the risks that they may face. Pupils know what to do if they have a concern and refer to safeguarding leads that they know will help them. If they have a concern while online, they can directly contact leaders through the school's website."

- Attendance for all children (Reception – Year 6) was 94.2% compared to the national figure of 92.2%. Disadvantaged pupil attendance was 93.4% compared to the national figure of 89.6%. SEND pupil attendance was 95.1% compared to the national figure of 90.4%. The school has worked closely with Calderdale Education Welfare Team to develop its attendance policy and procedures. Pupils persistently absent (less than 90%) have attended meetings and attendance is tracked closely throughout the year. Target families are offered support and the schools first day calling procedures focus on vulnerable pupils and those who are persistently absent. Unauthorised absences for term time holidays of 5 consecutive days or more are referred to the Local Authority. The Education Welfare Team will be carrying out termly attendance deep dives in the 23-24 academic year.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- The school reviewed its behaviour policy during the last academic year. The school focus is for all pupils and staff to have the highest expectations of themselves and each other. This is communicated through the school "ABC" approach

"Pupils behaviour in and around school is exemplary. They are enthusiastic learners. They demonstrate positive behaviours in lessons that reflect the school motto, 'STARS'. Pupils 'Sit up, Track the teacher, Ask and answer questions, Respect each other and Smile'. Pupils are kind and considerate to one another. They welcome new pupils and visitors alike. They say that 'smiling is the law'. If pupils ever have a worry or concern, they say that teachers are always at hand to deal with it. This includes any incidents of bullying, which are rare." Ofsted December 2022.

- In the last academic year the school continued to enhance its curriculum through partnership work with the local community. Examples of this include Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve, The Greater Elland Historical Society, Elland Churches, Spa Well Allotments, Elland Rotary Club, Elland Food Bank and a range of schools, sports clubs and associations and Calderdale Council. Our strong links with Calderdale Family Learning Team have been retained and enhanced and these have provided a range of high-quality child/parent/carer workshop activities including supporting our work around welcoming new families and transition events.

Our links with our families begin with home visits from key members of staff and early contact is made with new families joining Reception class who have not had the benefit from being with us in Nursery.

Parent/carer consultation evening events take place twice a year and parents/carers are welcomed into school to join in with key celebrations such as Christmas or for class assemblies.

Our Parents Teacher and Friends Association is an integral part of our school community offering a wide range of events which bring families and staff together for community events such as Bonfire fireworks, Christmas and Summer Fayres and secret shops and the ever-popular May munchies.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives in planning its future activities.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Academy was inspected by Ofsted in December 2022 and was judged to be outstanding.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Academic:

Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)

	Old Earth School	National Average	Calderdale Average
% of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD).	80%	67.2%	66.7%

Year 1 Phonics screening check

	Old Earth School	National Average	Calderdale Average
% of children achieving the phonics standard (32/40).	83.3%	78.9%	80.6%

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

	Old Earth School	National Average	Calderdale Average
% of children achieving age related expectations in reading.	76.3%	68.3%	66.9%
% of children achieving age related expectations in writing	62.7%	60.1%	58.4%
% of children achieving age related expectations in maths.	79.7%	70.4%	70%

End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

	Old Earth School	National Average	Calderdale Average
% of children achieving age related expectations in reading.	83.3%	72.6%	75.2%
% of children achieving age related expectations in writing	83.3%	71.4%	71.5%
% of children achieving age related expectations in maths.	75%	74.1%	74.1%
% of children achieving age related expectations in grammar, punctuation and spelling.	83.3%	72.3%	72.8%
% of children achieving age related expectations in reading, writing and maths.	68.3%	59.4%	59.5%

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Going concern

Based on its enquiries, the trustees find that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. It therefore 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

Most of the Academy's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The ESFA brings together the former responsibilities of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to create a single agency accountable for funding education and skills for children, young people and adults. The ESFA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Education.

The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown within restricted funds on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund.

The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

The land, buildings and other assets were transferred to the Academy upon conversion and are leased from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council for 125 years on a peppercorn rent of £0 per annum. The buildings and land were valued for the Education Funding Agency, giving the remaining useful asset life assessment and existing use valuation.

The Academy took on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Trustees have appointed a Responsible Officer, who is a chartered accountant, to undertake a programme of internal checks and review the financial operation of the Academy.

- The 2022/23 outturn position shows unrestricted revenue reserves available for carry forward of £179,868 and restricted revenue reserves of £99,892.
- Capital resources were used to support a condition improvement project to upgrade the school and site fire safety, alarm and compartmentation.
- Close tracking of school spending was needed due to increases in staffing costs and the ongoing school improvement work to develop an outstanding curriculum. Despite this a three year budget was submitted to the ESFA showing an in-year surplus of £78,459. A three year budget has been produced which predicts an increased surplus balance.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserves of the Academy annually. This review considers the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. This is in order to ensure sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as maintenance. The Academy aims to maintain reserves at a minimum of £160,000 at the year end. These levels are in respect of the combined restricted and unrestricted reserves. Reserves and future reserves are closely monitored as part of the three-year budget-setting process.

Restricted funds were £3,201,784 (excluding pension reserve) and unrestricted funds were £179,868. The capital balances carried forward were £3,148,892.

The Academy's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £179,868. The Academy has no free capital reserves.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The surplus on the restricted general fund is due to the local government pension deficit of £47,000.

The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension surplus) plus the balance on unrestricted funds is £232,760

Investment policy

Old Earth School has an investment policy but the Academy does not currently have reserves that are not part of the operational requirements of the school's future budgeting plans.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Financial – the Academy is reliant on continued government funding through the ESFA. In 2022/23 88% of the Academy's incoming resources were government funded and, although this level of funding is expected to continue, there is no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management – the risk in this area arises from potential failure effectively to manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational – the continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract pupils in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Trustees, ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection – the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child-protection policies and procedures, health and safety, and discipline.

Staffing – the success of the Academy depends upon the quality of its staff; therefore, the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds – the Academy has appointed a Responsible Officer to ensure that checks on financial systems and records are carried out as required by the Academy Trust Handbook (Previously referred to as the Academy Financial Handbook). All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Academy has an agreed Risk Register which has been discussed by Trustees and includes the financial and non-financial risks the Academy faces. The register is constantly reviewed in light of any new information. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities, other operational areas and surplus capacity in the local area.

The Trustees have implemented several systems to assess and minimise these risks, including internal controls. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Academy has implemented internal scrutiny reviews which are proposed by the Audit and Risk committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. The programme of reviews is determined by reference to the risk register.

The pandemic required that robust assessments be conducted to identify the risks associated with COVID-19 and ensure the health and safety of the school community. Following assessments, risk measures were introduced that followed the relevant Department for Education and Local Authority guidance and consider risks for which the school can mitigate, partially mitigate, or is unable to mitigate. Risk assessments were scrutinised by a licensed risk-assessment professional, who declared them to be 'suitable and sufficient'. They were made available for stakeholders to view on the school's website. The current risk assessment continues to be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis by staff and monitored at every Trustee Board meeting.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme) represents a significant potential liability. However, as Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, and the government has guaranteed that, as from 18 July 2013, outstanding pension liability would be met in the event of a school closure, the risk from this liability is minimised.

The Academy is aware that the West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) has indicated that pension contributions are being examined in view of the impact of COVID-19 and are likely to increase. At the period end, the Academy had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

Fortunately, the Academy has not been at risk of closure due to the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in any of its structures. The buildings do not fit the age profile specified (1950s to 1990s) and thus, there has been no need for removal of the product.

Fundraising

As an Academy we do not normally fundraise directly; this is done by the Old Earth School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). The PTFA is a charitable organisation (registered with the Charities Commission). Due to the pandemic and the requirement to socially distance, limited fundraising was possible during the early stages of 2021/22. More events were run, including a Summer Fayre in July 2023. The PTFA has made a contribution to the Academy of £776 that it has requested should be used for educational resources.

The Leadership and Management Team and members of the teaching team meet with officers of the PTFA to discuss events and the possible use of funds raised for school. The Academy Business Manager acts as PTFA treasurer.

No complaints have been made regarding the fundraising activities of the Academy or the PTFA.

The PTFA raises funds mainly from parents/carers or relatives of pupils and recognises that some of these pupils may be vulnerable; however, donations are voluntary with no undue pressure placed on contributors.

Plans for future periods

The Academy will continue to strive to provide high quality education and to improve levels of performance for all its pupils. The Academy will continue to develop the provision of education as well as social, moral, spiritual, and cultural education through the development of an annual improvement plan informed by rigorous monitoring by internal and external sources as well as the SEF (School Self Evaluation). The Academy will continue to work in partnership and collaboration with other schools and academies to improve the education of all pupils in the wider community.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Simpson Wood Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board Of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Aspin

Chair of Trustees

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Old Earth 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 Trustees 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 Old Earth School and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs A Aspin (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 1 September 2022)	4	4
Mr C Blakebrough (Parent trustee)	3	4
Mrs J Booth (Parent trustee)	3	4
Mrs J Day (Community trustee) (Resigned 1 September 2022)	0	0
Mrs R Freeman (Staff trustee) (Resigned 17 August 2023)	3	4
Mr J Stevens (Local authority trustee)	4	4
Mrs K Thornton (Co-Chair of trustees) (Resigned 17 August 2023)	2	4
Mr M Wragg (Co-Chair of trustees) (Resigned 1 September 2022)	0	0
Mrs N Spensley (Staff trustee) (Resigned 1 September 2022)	0	0
Mr B Hodgson (Parent trustee)	4	4
Mrs L Price (Parent trustee)	2	4
Mr D Burns (Headteacher)	4	4
Mrs K Walker (Staff trustee)	2	4
Miss E Townley (Staff trustee) (Appointed 21 September 2023)		
Mrs H I Dean (Appointed 2 March 2023)	2	2
Mrs V J Thwaite (Appointed 2 March 2023)	0	2
Mrs F Stephenson (Appointed 2 March 2023)	2	2
Mrs L Jackson (Appointed 2 March 2023 and resigned 27 October 2023)	2	2

The Academy Trust Handbook is considered on an annual basis. The 2023 handbook was considered by the Trustees at their meeting of the 21st September 2023.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of value for money

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

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

- Purchased high quality resources to support the development of the curriculum
- Investing time and resources in successfully gained Condition Improvement Funding to update Fire Safety in the school
- Ensuring staff receive appropriate, high quality training to ensure the effectiveness of all staff and their continuous professional development
- Accessing funds from the PTFA to support improving projects.
- Employing an additional teachers and resources and staff CPD with the COVID Catch up Grant to allow for recovery curriculum enhancement and development.

Estates safety and management

In managing the estate, best value concepts are always at the forefront to ensure effective use of resources, avoidance of waste and extravagance, prudent and economical administration. The Academy utilises specialist consultancy companies to run tendering processes for large capital projects and obtains quotations/uses CPC frameworks on smaller projects in line with the Academy's financial procedures.

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 Old Earth School for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. To comply with the requirement to have a process for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks, Old Earth School engages services of external bodies as well as undertaking Peer-to-Peer review. A Risk Register and Business Continuity Plan are in place and monitored.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes 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;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks
- the annual review of the Academy Trust Handbook and compliance with its requirements.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed an internal auditor. The Trustees have appointed Darren Senior, an experienced School Bursar, as Responsible Officer ('RO'). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. On a termly basis, the RO reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

Old Earth School recognises that it must have in place a process for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions, and risks.

The Board of Trustees have agreed a programme of work that will address the need for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks, and as far as is possible, provide assurance to the external auditors.

A risk plan is in place and risk is monitored during the year in relation to items presented to the Trustees.

There have been no material control issues identified during the year in relation to the work undertaken by the Responsible Officer.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the Responsible Officer
- the work of the external auditor
- the work of LMS
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the Internal Scrutiny Programme
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Aspin
Chair of Trustees



Mr D Burns
Headteacher

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As Accounting Officer of Old Earth School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding including for estates safety and management received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook of 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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

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



Mr D Burns
Accounting Officer

14 December 2023

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Aspin
Chair of Trustees

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OLD EARTH SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OLD EARTH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OLD EARTH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, taxation legislation, data protection and anti-bribery legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and.
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships. This was done as part of the completion stage once a set of draft statutory accounts were available to scrutinise against the prior year.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias and;
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions. CIF funding, Catch-up pupil premium and additional support regarding Covid-19 was particularly scrutinised

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OLD EARTH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.fc.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.



Daniel McAllister FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Simpson Wood Limited

14 December 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Bank Chambers
Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2EW

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO OLD EARTH SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 October 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Old Earth School during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Old Earth School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Old Earth School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 September 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

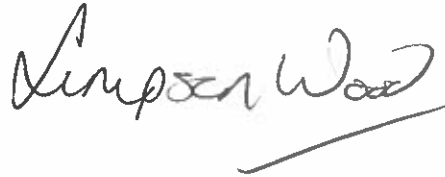
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance which may include review and corroboration of the most recent Financial Management and Governance Evaluation or equivalent.
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the Academy Trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- Assessment and testing of a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity.
- When performing sample testing of expenditure, consider whether the activity is permissible within the Academy Trust's framework of authorities.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO OLD EARTH SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant
Simpson Wood Limited

Dated: 14 December 2023

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
					as restated
					£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	184,884	184,884
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,359,099	-	2,359,099
Other trading activities	5	433,563	-	-	433,563
Investments	6	15,892	-	-	15,892
Total		<u>449,455</u>	<u>2,359,099</u>	<u>184,884</u>	<u>2,993,438</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	283,792	-	-	283,792
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	2,533,573	86,581	2,620,154
Total	7	<u>283,792</u>	<u>2,533,573</u>	<u>86,581</u>	<u>2,903,946</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		165,663	(174,474)	98,303	89,492
Transfers between funds	18	(49,363)	24,160	25,203	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	199,000	-	199,000
Net movement in funds		<u>116,300</u>	<u>48,686</u>	<u>123,506</u>	<u>288,492</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		63,568	51,206	3,025,386	3,140,160
Total funds carried forward		<u>179,868</u>	<u>99,892</u>	<u>3,148,892</u>	<u>3,428,652</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset		Total 2022
As restated	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	1,000	-	113,643	114,643
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,280,806	-	2,280,806
Other trading activities	5	385,993	-	-	385,993
Total		<u>386,993</u>	<u>2,280,806</u>	<u>113,643</u>	<u>2,781,442</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	341,833	-	-	341,833
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	13,594	2,486,166	68,301	2,568,061
Total	7	<u>355,427</u>	<u>2,486,166</u>	<u>68,301</u>	<u>2,909,894</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		31,566	(205,360)	45,342	(128,452)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(37,689)	37,689	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	2,210,000	-	2,210,000
Net movement in funds		31,566	1,966,951	83,031	2,081,548
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>32,003</u>	<u>(1,915,745)</u>	<u>2,942,354</u>	<u>1,058,612</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>63,569</u>	<u>51,206</u>	<u>3,025,385</u>	<u>3,140,160</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022 as restated	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		3,401,470		3,177,038
Current assets					
Stock	13	-		3,450	
Debtors	14	73,075		70,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		323,440		416,665	
		<u>396,515</u>		<u>490,701</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(209,058)		(204,891)	
Net current assets			<u>187,457</u>		<u>285,810</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,588,927</u>		<u>3,462,848</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(207,275)		(233,688)
Net assets excluding pension asset/(liability)			<u>3,381,652</u>		<u>3,229,160</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	20		47,000		(89,000)
Total net assets			<u>3,428,652</u>		<u>3,140,160</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			3,148,892		3,025,385
- Restricted income funds			52,892		140,206
- Pension reserve			47,000		(89,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>3,248,784</u>		<u>3,076,591</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18		<u>179,868</u>		<u>63,569</u>
Total funds			<u>3,428,652</u>		<u>3,140,160</u>

The accounts set out on pages 26 to 49 were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Aspin
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07726649 (England and Wales)

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	as restated £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	21		38,295		162,247
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		15,892		-	
Capital grants from DfE Group		184,884		113,643	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(294,727)		(39,170)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(93,951)		74,473
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(25,203)		(24,039)	
Finance costs		(12,366)		(13,520)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(37,569)		(37,559)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(93,225)		199,161
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			416,665		217,504
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u>323,440</u>		<u>416,665</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Old Earth School is a charitable company incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated 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.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised in the period in which a liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Costs not directly attributable but which relate to the private day nursery are allocated by applying the percentage of the space occupied by the private nursery. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

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.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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:

Land and buildings	2% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% straight line

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

No depreciation is provided in respect of freehold land.

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 of services it must provide.

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency 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.

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.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

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 20, 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 2020 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees have not identified any critical areas of accounting judgements.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	184,884	184,884	113,643
Other donations	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>184,884</u>	<u>184,884</u>	<u>114,643</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,783,069	1,783,069	1,773,014
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	77,624	77,624	67,985
- Pupil premium	-	95,117	95,117	95,798
- Others	-	111,036	111,036	40,487
	-	2,066,846	2,066,846	1,977,284
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	292,253	292,253	293,807
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	9,715
Total funding	-	2,359,099	2,359,099	2,280,806

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	3,483	-	3,483	5,545
Catering income	68,904	-	68,904	61,976
Out of school activities	319,544	-	319,544	249,990
Educational visits	16,423	-	16,423	17,340
Other income	25,209	-	25,209	51,142
	433,563	-	433,563	385,993

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	15,892	-	15,892	-

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total	Total
	£	Premises	Other	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	227,021	-	56,771	283,792	341,833
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,821,039	70,295	112,433	2,003,767	1,735,193
- Allocated support costs	365,876	80,963	169,548	616,387	832,868
	<u>2,413,936</u>	<u>151,258</u>	<u>338,752</u>	<u>2,903,946</u>	<u>2,909,894</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	70,295	68,301
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	6,875	6,250
- Other services	605	550
Bank and loan interest	12,366	13,520
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	-	33,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>33,000</u>

8 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	2,003,767	1,735,193
Support costs		
Educational operations	616,387	832,868
	<u>2,620,154</u>	<u>2,568,061</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	365,876	553,979
Technology costs	43,066	21,885
Premises costs	80,963	111,301
Legal costs	-	14,169
Other support costs	114,172	123,309
Governance costs	12,310	8,225
	<u>616,387</u>	<u>832,868</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,866,553	1,696,228
Social security costs	150,767	137,752
Pension costs	396,616	537,732
Staff costs - employees	<u>2,413,936</u>	<u>2,371,712</u>
	2,413,936	2,371,712
Staff development and other staff costs	<u>29,794</u>	<u>22,836</u>
Total staff expenditure	<u><u>2,443,730</u></u>	<u><u>2,394,548</u></u>

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	18	15
Administration and support	44	49
Management	3	3
Catering	7	8
	<u>72</u>	<u>75</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £234,375 (2022: £221,814).

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £Nil (2022: £Nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

D Burns (headteacher)

Remuneration: £70,000 - £75,000 (2022: £70,000 - £75,000)

Pension: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

R Freeman (staff - resigned 17 August 2023)

Remuneration £40,000 - £45,000 (2022: £40,000 - £45,000)

Pension: £10,000 - £15,000 (2022: £10,000 - £15,000)

K Walker (staff)

Remuneration: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £10,000 - £15,000)

Pension: £Nil - £5,000 (2022: £Nil - £5,000)

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

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £5,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2022	3,613,375	53,591	130,509	3,797,475
Additions	281,684	2,903	10,140	294,727
At 31 August 2023	3,895,059	56,494	140,649	4,092,202
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	510,545	48,060	61,832	620,437
Charge for the year	55,833	2,560	11,902	70,295
At 31 August 2023	566,378	50,620	73,734	690,732
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	3,328,681	5,874	66,915	3,401,470
At 31 August 2022	3,102,830	5,531	68,677	3,177,038

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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

13 Stock	2023	2022
	£	£
Catering stock	-	3,450
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,158	7,229
VAT recoverable	12,899	4,810
Prepayments and accrued income	50,018	58,547
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>73,075</u>	<u>70,586</u>
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	45,303	44,093
Trade creditors	1,297	13,795
Other creditors	1,069	-
Accruals and deferred income	161,389	147,003
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>209,058</u>	<u>204,891</u>
16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	207,275	233,688
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(Continued)	
Analysis of loans	2023 £	2022 £
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	252,578	277,781
Less: included in current liabilities	(45,303)	(44,093)
Amounts included above	<u>207,275</u>	<u>233,688</u>
Instalments not due within five years	<u>88,325</u>	<u>120,185</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	45,302	44,093
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	27,680	26,413
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	91,269	87,090
Due in more than five years	88,325	120,185
	<u>252,576</u>	<u>277,781</u>
17 Deferred income	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>89,005</u>	<u>81,391</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	81,391	95,088
Released from previous years	(81,391)	(95,088)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>89,005</u>	<u>81,391</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>89,005</u>	<u>81,391</u>

Deferred income relates to Early Education Funding and Universal Infant Free School Meals funding received from the ESFA for the year ending 31 August 2024.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	73,398	1,783,069	(1,794,930)	(8,645)	52,892
UIFSM	6,239	77,624	(89,866)	6,003	-
Pupil premium	-	95,117	(107,778)	12,661	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	111,036	(75,814)	(35,222)	-
Other government grants	60,569	292,253	(402,185)	49,363	-
Pension reserve	(89,000)	-	(63,000)	199,000	47,000
	<u>51,206</u>	<u>2,359,099</u>	<u>(2,533,573)</u>	<u>223,160</u>	<u>99,892</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	1,631,362	-	(27,738)	-	1,603,624
DfE group capital grants	618,464	184,884	(29,501)	-	773,847
Capital expenditure from GAG	775,560	-	(29,342)	25,203	771,421
	<u>3,025,386</u>	<u>184,884</u>	<u>(86,581)</u>	<u>25,203</u>	<u>3,148,892</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,076,592</u>	<u>2,543,983</u>	<u>(2,620,154)</u>	<u>248,363</u>	<u>3,248,784</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>63,568</u>	<u>449,455</u>	<u>(283,792)</u>	<u>(49,363)</u>	<u>179,868</u>
Total funds	<u>3,140,160</u>	<u>2,993,438</u>	<u>(2,903,946)</u>	<u>199,000</u>	<u>3,428,652</u>

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Pupil premium grant, is specifically to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

Universal Free School Meals funding, will be spent on the provision of school meals to infants.

The balance carried forwards in relation to Other government grants relates to early years funding which will be spent on the provision of nursery services.

Restricted fixed assets were predominantly funded by government grants and transfers from predecessor school.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

Calderdale Funding

Old Earth has a considerable wrap around provision at the school and receives a significant amount of income from Calderdale. For 2022/23 this was split as follows:

	£
EEF Funding	68,025
Little Earth Nursey Deprivation	1,497
School Deprivation	4,708
Inclusion Funding	13,419
Total	87,649

All these income streams are attached to separate funds within the school's finance function and costs are allocated fully by the year end, a majority of the allocations are for wages but there are some for resources and other items, generally all the income is allocated at the year end, but the school does keep separate spreadsheets for these income centres and matches expenditure these are audited separately by Calderdale every two years, occasionally a small unused balance is rolled forward and used in the following financial year. The school also receives Nursery and SEN income from Calderdale but this is fully allocated each year at the year end.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	10,747	1,773,014	(1,672,674)	(37,689)	73,398
UIFSM	6,239	67,985	(67,985)	-	6,239
Pupil premium	-	95,798	(95,798)	-	-
Catch-up premium	22,700	-	(22,700)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	9,715	(9,715)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	40,487	(40,487)	-	-
Other government grants	60,569	293,807	(293,807)	-	60,569
Pension reserve	(2,016,000)	-	(283,000)	2,210,000	(89,000)
	<u>(1,915,745)</u>	<u>2,280,806</u>	<u>(2,486,166)</u>	<u>2,172,311</u>	<u>51,206</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	1,659,100	-	(27,738)	-	1,631,362
DfE group capital grants	516,419	113,643	(11,598)	-	618,464
Capital expenditure from GAG	766,835	-	(28,965)	37,689	775,559
	<u>2,942,354</u>	<u>113,643</u>	<u>(68,301)</u>	<u>37,689</u>	<u>3,025,385</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,026,609</u>	<u>2,394,449</u>	<u>(2,554,467)</u>	<u>2,210,000</u>	<u>3,076,591</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>32,003</u>	<u>386,993</u>	<u>(355,427)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,569</u>
Total funds	<u>1,058,612</u>	<u>2,781,442</u>	<u>(2,909,894)</u>	<u>2,210,000</u>	<u>3,140,160</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,401,470	3,401,470
Current assets	179,868	216,647	-	396,515
Current liabilities	-	(163,755)	(45,303)	(209,058)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(207,275)	(207,275)
Pension scheme asset	-	47,000	-	47,000
Total net assets	<u>179,868</u>	<u>99,892</u>	<u>3,148,892</u>	<u>3,428,652</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,177,038	3,177,038
Current assets	63,569	301,004	126,128	490,701
Current liabilities	-	(160,798)	(44,093)	(204,891)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(233,688)	(233,688)
Pension scheme liability	-	(89,000)	-	(89,000)
Total net assets	63,569	51,206	3,025,385	3,140,160

20 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by West Yorkshire Pension Fund. 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 2016 and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £208,970 (2022: £200,472).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Total contributions made	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	142,000	116,000
Employees' contributions	47,000	40,000
Total contributions	189,000	156,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.7
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	4.1
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60	2.7

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21	21.8
- Females	24.1	24.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.2	22.5
- Females	25.1	25.7

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(60)	(69)
Discount rate - 0.1%	60	72
Mortality assumption + 1 year	(71)	(81)
Mortality assumption - 1 year	71	81
Rate of general increase in salaries +0.1% p.a	6	60
Rate of general increase in salaries-0.1% p.a	(6)	(58)

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	2,322,000	2,227,000
Government bonds	215,000	179,000
Corporate bonds	130,000	120,000
Cash	113,000	112,000
Property	96,000	109,000
Other assets	23,000	42,000
Total market value of assets	2,899,000	2,789,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £- (2022: £30,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	205,000	366,000
Interest income	(117,000)	(47,000)
Interest cost	117,000	80,000
Total operating charge	205,000	399,000

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2023	2022
		£	£
At 1 September 2022		2,878,000	4,738,000
Current service cost		205,000	366,000
Interest cost		117,000	80,000
Employee contributions		47,000	40,000
Actuarial gain		(316,000)	(2,227,000)
Benefits paid		(79,000)	(119,000)
At 31 August 2023		<u>2,852,000</u>	<u>2,878,000</u>
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2023	2022
		£	£
At 1 September 2022		2,789,000	2,722,000
Interest income		117,000	47,000
Actuarial loss		(117,000)	(17,000)
Employer contributions		142,000	116,000
Employee contributions		47,000	40,000
Benefits paid		(79,000)	(119,000)
At 31 August 2023		<u>2,899,000</u>	<u>2,789,000</u>
21 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		89,492	(128,452)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(184,884)	(113,643)
Investment income receivable	6	(15,892)	-
Finance costs payable		12,366	13,520
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	63,000	250,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	-	33,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		70,295	68,301
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		3,450	(450)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(2,489)	25,685
Increase in creditors		2,957	14,286
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>38,295</u>	<u>162,247</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022	Cash flows	31 August 2023
	£	£	£
Cash	416,665	(93,225)	323,440
Loans falling due within one year	(44,093)	(1,210)	(45,303)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(233,688)	26,413	(207,275)
	<u>138,884</u>	<u>(68,022)</u>	<u>70,862</u>

23 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	252,488
	<u>-</u>	<u>252,488</u>

In the summer of 2022, Old Earth was successful in attaining a CIF bid with the ESFA for £261,443. However due to timings and the cost of materials and labour increasing it meant that the project did not start until January 2023.

There were no capital commitments at the end of the current financial year.

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

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.

26 Prior period adjustment

		1 September 2021	31 August 2022
	Notes	£	£
Reconciliation of funds			
Funds as previously reported		1,058,612	3,140,160
Adjustments arising:			
Loan repayments to FA fund	1	(101,935)	(125,975)
Loan repayments from GAG	1	101,935	125,975
Funds as restated		<u>1,058,612</u>	<u>3,140,160</u>

OLD EARTH SCHOOL

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

26	Prior period adjustment		(Continued)
			2022
	Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) for the previous financial period		£
	Net expenditure as reported - not affected by restatement		(128,452)
	Loan repayments to FA fund	1	-
	Loan repayments from GAG	1	-
			<u> </u>

Notes to restatement

Loan repayments

The restatement is as a result of an error in previous years. The loans in the academy relate to capital projects, and as these are repaid funds need to be transferred into the fixed asset funds from the school's GAG fund. This has no impact on the net income for the year or the balance sheet totals, just the breakdown of funds.