

Company Registration Number: 07984453 (England & Wales)

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Members</b>	N Henderson D W Mullen M Olsen A Sharp A Marshall (appointed 2 January 2024)
<b>Trustees</b>	A Sharp, Chair N Henderson, Vice Chair S P Bowler, Principal and Accounting Officer R G Clark A Moat C B Lincoln V Sheriff R Dixon (appointed 11 June 2024) A Atkinson (appointed 13 December 2023)
<b>Company registered number</b>	07984453
<b>Company name</b>	Monkton Academy
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	Dame Flora Robson Avenue South Shields Tyne and Wear NE34 9RD
<b>Company secretary</b>	Alice Marshall
<b>Senior management team</b>	S P Bowler, Principal L Heathfield, Deputy Principal N Graham, Assistant Principal & SENCo L Connelly, Maths Lead V Sheriff, Assistant Principal & English Lead

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Independent auditors** Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
and Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL3 7RT

**Bankers** Lloyds Bank plc  
101 Kings Street  
South Shields  
Tyne and Wear  
NE33 1DT

**Solicitors** PGS Law  
Law Court Chambers  
22 Denmark Centre  
Fowler Street  
South Shields  
Tyne and Wear  
NE33 2LR



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy trust for children aged 7 to 11 years old in an area of high deprivation, Simonside, South Shields. It has a pupil capacity of 240 and has 192 children on roll as at May 2024.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Constitution**

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing document of the academy trust. The principal object of the academy trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Trustees of Monkton Academy are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. We have five members of the charitable company, three who are Trustees of Monkton Academy and two who are independent.

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

**Members' liability**

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

**Trustees' indemnities**

The academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. Further details are provided in note 11.

**Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The Members of the academy trust are selected from within the Trustees of the school, apart from two who are independent.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal or any post held ex-officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

The make-up of the Governing Body is as follows:

- 4 academy trust Trustees
- 2 Co-opted Trustees
- The Principal
- 2 Parent Trustees
- 2 Staff Trustees

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary training is provided on educational, legal and financial matters. The academy trust buys into an annual Service Level Agreement for Trustee training and support. Every year Trustees receive a personal training planner, which highlights training sessions available, and Trustees are encouraged to attend. All new Trustees are given a tour of the academy trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. They are provided with a Trustee Information Pack from the Chair which contains copies of policies, procedures, minutes, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake in their role as a Trustee. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction is undertaken formally and is tailored to the individual. Trustees will then be provided with key areas of responsibility following a skills audit.

**Organisational structure**

During the year, the academy trust has operated a unified leadership structure. The structure consists of two levels: the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The Leadership Team works closely with middle leaders, thus ensuring that 'leadership' and 'management' are devolved accordingly within the academy trust.

Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting the annual 'Improvement Plan' and agreeing the budget. This also involves monitoring the academy trust by the use of budgets, agreeing major decisions about the direction of the academy trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, SENCO and English Lead who provide the strategic leadership for the academy trust implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them via the Principal. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the day to day running of the academy trust, the financial management of the academy trust funds and the appointment of staff through interview panels that may contain a Trustee(s). Whilst, the Deputy Principal has been on maternity leave, the English Lead and SENCO have taken on the role of Acting Assistant Principals. A Maths Lead has also been appointed internally on a temporary basis.

**Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The academy trust pay policy is reviewed and updated each year in line with national guidelines for school staff. On conversion, the academy trust made clear its intention not to deviate from teacher pay and conditions and also those of support staff employed under the local government structure, so that school employees would not be disadvantaged with respect to colleagues in local authority-maintained schools.

**Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

The academy trust is not part of a soft federation and is not connected to any Charities or Organisations. For further details, see note 23.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

**Objects and aims**

The principal object and activity of the company is the operation of Monkton Academy to provide education for students of different abilities between the ages of 7 and 11.

**Objectives, strategies and activities**

Our Vision is to: Inspire, Achieve, Empower (in a circle design).

Our Mission statement is: Making Memorable Moments everyday; all day: for everyone.

Our School Story: At Monkton, children are at the heart of all we do. We have a nurturing culture of resilience, respect and pride as well as a strong sense of community belonging. This ensures our children learn, collaborate and reach their full potential with the belief that anything is possible.

Our School Story is what school life should actually look like and something we can easily measure against. School Values (How we will Inspire, Empower and help our pupils Achieve.)

We INSPIRE pupils by:

- Teaching exciting and challenging lessons that help us learn new skills and acquire knowledge
- Inspiring us to be physically fit
- Developing our aspirations to explore the wider world
- Encouraging us by telling us we can do it

EMPOWER by:

- Teaching us life skills so that we can become independent
- Knowing how to keep ourselves and others' safe
- Encouraging us to be confident and feel good about ourselves
- Helping us to get along with all members of our school community

ACHIEVE by:

- Challenging us and allowing us time to reflect and improve our learning
- Providing an environment where we are confident to experiment and make mistakes
- Promoting resilience and being able to overcome obstacles in our path
- Giving us a variety of opportunities to succeed across the curriculum

**Public benefit**

The academy trust's aims and objectives are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Trustees have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy trust should undertake.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**Key performance indicators**

The school had an OFSTED inspection in May 2019. It maintained its grading of good, which is reflective of all the hard work undertaken by staff and Trustees over the last 2 years; particularly when looking at the barriers to progress. The report was positively written and indicated how far the school had moved. Next steps recommended:

- Teaching of reading continues to improve so that pupils make more rapid progress and results are in line with national averages;
- The leaders for English, Mathematics and SEN continue to develop their use of assessment information more effectively to plan support, which enables underachieving pupils to catch up in their learning;
- Recent changes in the curriculum are embedded so that pupils' learning in English and Mathematics is supported by links to other subjects.

The school feels it is well on the way to meeting these next if they have not already been met. It has made great strides in the development of its curriculum.

The school continued, to a lesser extent, to be affected by the Covid pandemic during the 2023-2024 academic year. This has been in terms of pupil attendance, increased costs and disruption to children's education. School attendance last academic year stood just 94.1%. This was in line with regional expectations and over 1% up on last year. Again, attendance data has been impacted following the impact of Covid, something which has been recognised nationally as having had substantial impact. This is reflected in details set out in the newly published DfE white paper 'working together to improve attendance' which became statutory in September 2023 and for which our SLT have received training on.

Progress on improving attendance in line with SIP priorities was refined during the 2023-2024 academic year. School attendance continued to be hindered by COVID; poor attendance patterns in general; high levels of persistent absenteeism and the huge increase in leave of absences for term time holidays post-pandemic. It was also felt that many parents were more reluctant to send pupils to school at small signs of children being unwell, resilience towards illnesses having taken a real hit. The school employed a Pastoral and Attendance Lead (PAL) to further support this work. The role has proved invaluable in improving pupil attendance and supporting vulnerable families

What became clear over the course of the academic year, is that poor attendance had a significant link to safeguarding and wellbeing concerns. Unfortunately, such concerns alone do not pass thresholds for referrals into Children's Services, however we now recognise poor attendance as an early marker from which to monitor.

This academic year we have continue to use an attendance flow chart (which has been communicated to parents) outlining school's response to attendance concerns. All term time leave of absences are (unless exceptional circumstances are proven) unauthorised, with penalty fines being issued, and further fines are issued in line with local authority guidance for our poorest attendees. Families are always offered support before statutory procedures such as penalty notice referrals and subsequent fines are placed, however this does heavily depend upon engagement from the families involved. A senior member of staff is responsible for attendance in Lower School, whilst another, manages attendance for Year 5 and 6. They work closely with the PAL and EWO to support families and fulfil our statutory duties.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

Total income per pupil was at £3,217 (AWPU) on 171 pupils this year with funding received in the form of:

Total pupil led factors income £980,000 (increase of £73,000 from 2022-2023)  
Total budget share income £980,000 (increase of £73,000 from 2022-2023)  
Pupil Premium £191,000  
Sports Premium £17,700  
DFC £5,913

Funding increased from the previous years of over £70,000, generally because of increased numbers. We also benefitted from a CIF bid of over £370,000 to improve the heating system within school.

We also received additional grant funding of approximately £12,000, directly from the DfE for additional tutoring/ pay support. This has put us in a strong position to continue improving the educational experience for children, improving the fabric of the site and maintaining high quality staffing.

**Key Stage 2 Performance data**

Key Stage 2 SATS continued in 2024. The school was pleased with the outcomes with children making good progress since their starting points in Y3, and were approximately 5-10% below national norms with national norms in all subjects and combined at expected levels. Greater Depth outcomes were generally below apart from reading. We also had a number of children who had a scaled score of 99, just missing the national benchmark. This was in spite of the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic and haphazard data from our feeder school. Y4 multiplication test outcomes, were also as expected.

School targets that were set at the beginning of the year were generally achieved in all year groups for most subjects.

Projected future progress scores are heavily influenced by KS1 attainment scores. These indicate high levels of Greater Depth pupils especially for reading in the next 3 years. Results for KS1 outcomes are always above/ inline with national standards at both ARE and Greater Depth; sometimes significantly so. This presents us with a challenge bearing in mind what is assessed at the beginning of Y3. Current Y3 missed school due to the pandemic. It is likely that areas of the Y2 curriculum will need to be taught in Y3.

There was no progress data this year and pupils did not sit Key Stage 1 assessments, because of the pandemic. Gaps are narrowing between year groups and specific cohorts. The gaps between disadvantage and non can also be inconsistent. This situation is being addressed by a more consistent and robust teaching focus and pedagogy.

- Disadvantaged pupils' attainment and progress remain a key focus.
- Most low achievers progress well but some predicted Greater Depth pupils need to make better improvement. This is particularly the case for writing.
- Pupil progress and targets are rigorously tracked and evaluated via a series of pupil progress meetings to monitor impact of school strategies. All outcomes are triangulated against lesson observation and work scrutinies to ascertain successes and any next steps.
- Progress across year groups is improving and gaining greater consistency. Formal assessments, regular work scrutinies and teacher observations enable leaders to monitor the impact of initiatives closely and quickly resolves any areas of concern.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**Review of activities**

2023 - 2024 was again a year of challenge for Monkton Academy. It did give us the time to embed the significant changes from the year before, but it always remains difficult to close gaps that children have acquired before entering school. However, development and improvement as a school continued at an accelerated rate. Most staffing remained the same, albeit some on maternity leave. Curriculum leaders have had a significant effect on provision. Several new Trustees were appointed, all with specific expertise. These changes have led to even greater stability for Monkton Academy and have enabled it to continue to move forward at an accelerated rate. We work closely with the CEO of Oak Learning Trust to give us an external view of our work. Results have been pleasing.

Other changes in staffing have included:

- Miss Heathfield and Miss Anderson took maternity leave and returned in the Spring Term;
- Mrs McCullough returned after extended sick leave, initially on a phased return in the Summer Term;
- Miss Sheriff and Miss Graham became Assistant Principals to cover the Deputy's role, whilst Miss Connelly became Acting Maths Lead. These were all made permanent. Mrs Moat received a temporary TLR 3 for developing and promoting community links.
- Mrs Myers and Mr Elliott were appointed on temporary contracts to fill gaps in staffing. Mr Elliott became a HLTA, whilst Mrs Myers provided management cover and developed our careers curriculum.

Pupil numbers have increased to 193 with 2 parallel classes per year group. Year groups remain in the 40's for most year groups. However, Y3 had 60 pupils. Future numbers are projected to decrease to above 183 next year but reduce the year after with a lower intake of Y3 pupils. The number of SEND pupils the school is receiving is also increasing, without the necessary increase in finance.

All aspects of school life have continued to change during the past year. Significant changes have included:

- We continued to use Academic Tutors for Years 5 and 6. Miss Cameron was employed as a TA apprentice.
- The school started to undertake the work in its CIF heating bid and completed the previous ceiling and lighting one.
- The wider curriculum has shown considerable development. Subject leaders have worked hard to ensure continuity and progression is evident in all areas. We use a structure of Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express approach. Topics generally start with a visit or interactive event which the school funds. This is aligned to the school's mission statement and ethos. A clear curriculum model is in place. Assessment procedures for Foundation subjects have been developed. Leadership of the Foundation subjects has also moved forward. This is to ensure that pupils embed skills in reading, writing and maths as well as gaining a better understanding of the wider world. Principles for the teaching of core subjects have also been developed, so there is a consistent approach in all years. We also follow the National curriculum. Home Learning is directly linked to the pupil's curriculum. A Learning Behavior's approach has also been developed throughout the year.
- Children begin school with poor spelling and handwriting skills. The school is developing an approach to address this. It is also linking it to its Talk: Write programme, which also develops children's oracy skills.
- The school secured its Healthy School's Award and School's ActiveMark Gold.
- Forest School remained very popular with parents and children.
- The school has also developed links with a variety of outside sports' providers. This has enhanced our curriculum offer and provided a range of after-school clubs. The school has also been successful in a range of sports in inter-school competitions.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

- Skills ladders and curriculum plans are in place for all Foundation subjects. These have been developed by subject leaders and ensure continuity and progression throughout the school. External music tuition is taught to all year groups and Spanish is taught across the school. Y5 go swimming and Y4 and Y6 have residential experiences. Y3 benefit from an artist in residence. All visits are funded by the school and nearly all children represent the school in a sporting activity.
- Target setting for all year groups is now embedded including the combined score. FFT data is also used to support this process. The standardised assessment system is still in place. This (and teacher assessment) is now tracked by Sonar. Data is being triangulated via these assessment systems, classroom observations and work scrutinies. In some classes, progress is not as clear as it can be when looking at progress over time. New methods of teaching in the core subjects has shown impact on pupil progress but these approaches still need some further embedding in the school curriculum. Moderation in school also needs further development. Middle leaders have been appointed as mentors where appropriate with all monitoring activities undertaken with the Principal and the SLT.
- Monitoring and evaluation by the MLT has improved significantly and leaders have a much clearer idea of how their areas of responsibility are progressing. Teachers are given systematic feedback that shows them how and where to improve. This is re-visited in the next monitoring cycles. Joint working underpins all monitoring activities.
- Intervention strategies match the gap analysis. Plans are clearly focused and show the use of more accurate assessment information. The SENCo has worked hard to ensure the pupils' progress improves. This is because identification procedures are more effective and the correct support is given to the correct pupils. However, progress for some SEND and middle prior attainment pupils is an area of development in some subjects.
- Physical fitness remains important to school life. We take our responsibility for pupil's mental health seriously. We have an Emotional Health Lead and deploy the LA's Emotional Lead where appropriate. There are a variety of strategies for sex, physical and emotional health in school.
- School communication procedures are much more visible and used via the updated school website, school App, text service, Facebook page, school blog and more 2-way communication events.
- The school has developed a school library, Science Lab, Art Studio, sensory area, Hub research station and Forest School. It has also enhanced its IT provision, installing new Whiteboards in all classroom and providing 15 Chromebooks in all year, groups, as well as increasing provision in the ICT suite and classrooms. We also use VR. The DfE also provided a number of Chromebooks for remote provision in the prior year.
- The school has a number of roles for children. These include School Councilors, Sport's Captains and Climate Change Ambassadors. These roles give the children a voice, whose ideas impact on school development. School Council has been more proactive this year and is actively involved in a number of termly events.
- As the will be retiring in the short term, the school will look at joining a MAT. Several have been researched and currently there is a preference for Oak Learning Trust.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue 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 accounting policies.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Financial review**

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy trust also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown under 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.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £1,437,000 was in excess of recurrent grant funding from DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding pension reserve movements and restricted fixed asset funds) was £44,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy trust's objectives.

At 31 August 2024 net book value of fixed assets was £1,753,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy trust.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of LGPS pension scheme, resulting in no surplus or deficit being recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2024 of £1,765,000 comprising £12,000 of restricted general funds, £1,753,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, a pension reserves of £nil and £nil unrestricted funds.

**Reserves Policy**

The academy trust holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds).

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the academy trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

Due to the uncertainty from revenue funding, Trustees consider it prudent to hold unrestricted reserves in the general fund in the form of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in the fixed assets and restricted funds) of £100,000.

This is considered to cover:

- Possible future government funding restrictions and longevity of teachers' pension and pay grants
- To cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy trust including school trips and uniform costs.

The academy trust's current level of reserves, excluding the fixed asset funds and pension reserve is £12,000 which includes unrestricted reserves of £nil and GAG funds carried forward of £12,000.

The reserves have been reduced due to capital works and lagged funding, the reserves are now expected to grow again towards the reserves policy level.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Investment policy**

The Trustees' policy regarding investments is to monitor regularly cash flow and cash balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met (payroll and payments runs) and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments; to avoid its current account being overdrawn; and to invest funds only in risk free and immediately accessible deposit accounts when considered necessary.

**Principal risks and uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties are centered on changes in the level of funding from DfE/ESFA.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy trust, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy trust has an effective system of internal financial controls, and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The academy trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safe Recruitment procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

The academy trust is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The academy trust has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks.

**Fundraising**

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

**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

During the period covered by the report, Monkton Academy has not held any funds as a custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**A Sharp**  
Chair

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Scope of responsibility**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, 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 Monkton Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Sharp, Chair	6	6
N Henderson, Vice Chair	5	6
S P Bowler, Principal and Accounting Officer	6	6
R G Clark	6	6
A Moat	6	6
C B Lincoln	3	6
V Sheriff	4	6
R Dixon (appointed 11 June 2024)	1	1
A Atkinson (appointed 13 December 2023)	4	4

Mrs A Sharp was once again elected the Chair of Trustees as was Mr N Henderson as Vice-Chair. Trustees carried out their role in contributing to the work of the academy trust by ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school by:

- Upholding the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

This was achieved by contributing to the strategic discussions at Board of Trustees meetings which determine:

- the vision and ethos of the school;
- clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school;
- that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- the school's budget, including the expenditure and use of the pupil premium and sports premium allocations;
- the securing of high needs education funding where required;
- the school's staffing structure and key staffing policies;
- the principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies;
- Trustees held the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance; this included: agreeing the outcomes from the Principals self-evaluation form and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school development plan;



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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance (continued)**

- considering all relevant pupil performance data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance;
- asking challenging questions of school leaders; ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving the results of those audits;
- ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies;
- acting as link Trustees (rather than operating a committee structure) on specific issues, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the Board of Trustees on the progress on the relevant school priority; and
- listening to and reporting to the school's stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.

**Conflict of interest**

Trustees & Staff complete a Declaration of Interest form at the start of every academic year. Should any additional staff or Trustees be appointed throughout the year a form will be completed at this point. The Trustees and Leadership Team at Monkton Academy are aware of any conflicts of interest and this is managed in the appropriate manner. Details of which are available if this is requested. Any conflict of interest is declared, discussed and minuted within all governors meetings.

Trustees ensured that school staff had the resources and support they required to do their jobs well, including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary, effective appraisal and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), and emerging and developing premises, and that the way in which those resources are used has impact. When required, Trustees were available to serve on panels of Trustees to:

- appoint a Principal into a substantive post;
- appoint senior leaders;
- appraise the Principal; and
- set the Principals pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff.

The Finance, Staffing, Resources & Premises Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees and is skilled at challenging the financial direction of the school. Finance decisions are discussed, challenged openly and minuted. The Board of Trustees meets six times a year and the Finance, Staffing, Resources Premises Committee has met at intervals to suit the financial management programme. This committee has sought monthly financial reporting from the school and carries out budget assessment and approval on behalf the Board of Trustees. It has approved the budget set for the year along with the audited accounts and has been responsible for the Trustees Report accompanying the accounts. Mrs A Sharp has monthly oversight of the accounts including staffing costs, payments made in and out, requisition requests against budgets and monthly credit card expenditure.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S P Bowler	3	3
N Henderson	2	3
C B Lincoln	1	3
R Clark	2	3
A Sharp	3	3
R Dixon (appointed 11 June 2024)	1	1
A Atkinson (appointed 13 December 2023)	1	1



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Review of value for money**

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

Financial accountability starts with the Principal as Accounting Officer who delegates day to day financial management to the School Finance Officer acting as Chief Financial Officer. Mr N Henderson Chairs the Audit Committee and briefs the Trust Members responsible for finance. The Committee Chair and Chair of Trustees challenges the School Finance Officer on every component of the budget throughout the year and observes the selection process of major service contractors ensuring that analytical matrices of bid assessment criteria contribute to appointing economically effective suppliers. Transparency of procurement is always required to ensure compliance with policy. The Chair also monitors staff recruitment and appointments along with the annual performance management and pay review of the Principal and staff pay awards.

The school and Trustees work to apply expenditure for educational use as a priority. Review of value for money to ensure improving educational outcomes. The school is fully committed to ensuring that all pupils receive the highest levels of education, where teaching enables them to make consistently good and better progress. We set high standards for behaviour, welfare and safety for all our pupils. The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team ensure that all resources are targeted in line with the School Development Plan and priorities are reviewed regularly to ensure there is an impact on pupils' progress and attainment. As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the academy 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 a targeted improvement approach.

The staff structure is reviewed regularly and is adjusted accordingly to fully support the needs of all pupils including those who are in receipt of Pupil Premium and those with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs. Changes have included the appointment of both additional teaching and support staff to enable all pupils to reach their full potential. In addition, performance reviews and appraisals have been developed which clearly link expectations of pupil performance with teacher targets. Focus on individual pupils, The Trustees and senior members of staff have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements of our pupils. For those pupils who attract Pupil Premium funding and are at risk of underachieving, we implement a variety of intervention programmes on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. These programmes continued throughout the restrictions to ensure the gap was as minimal as possible. Funding is allocated to optimal effect as indicated by the detailed breakdown on the school website.

Sonar tracking system is used to ensure that all pupils are assessed, tracked and supported to achieve and excel across all areas of school life, regardless of starting positions. Mentoring sessions with class teachers have developed pupils' confidence and meta-cognition skills, so that they take increasing responsibility for their learning and behaviour choices, building independent learners who are motivated and involved in their own learning.



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Review of value for money (continued)**

Pupils have been actively involved in their local community, supporting care homes and the local school community. Most recently, we have raised money for the Poppy Appeal, McMillan Cancer and other national/local charities.

There has been an emphasis on PE and sport, with inter-school events organised throughout the year. We have a specialist sports teacher who has provided a wide range of sport to all pupils including extra-curricular activities. This now includes supporting children to eat healthily. The school ensures that each year group is unique and can offer the pupils a range of 'Memorable Moments'.

Educational visits and themed days have been increased to enrich our curriculum so that all children are offered a range of visits, which are connected with work in the classroom. We have made visits locally and further afield, have had themed days and invited visitors into school from the wider community. This includes residential visits in Y4 and Y6.

**Quantifying improvements**

School progress is showing a sustained improving picture and is starting to show that pupils at the school make better progress from Y3 starting points. Historical learning gaps are being filled for most pupils. There is a consistent approach to teaching and learning throughout the school. Writing continue to be our area for improvement, encouraging our pupils to read. This is documented in our School Improvement Plan. This is also the case for Greater Depth pupils. Progress for disadvantaged groups across the school is also an improving picture in most areas This has included a revised curriculum offer, additional resourcing and supporting those pupils most affected. In accordance with the school ethos, the emphasis on establishing positive well-being and a mental health provision. This service is accessed by children and staff on a weekly basis. The Pastoral and Attendance Lead has made a sustained impact.

**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 Monkton Academy for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. Previously, the Chair of Trustees had asked the school's accountant, to carry out a review of, and report on, the financial controls that were in place and had been implemented during this financial year. This report remains valid. Our internal auditor completed an extensive review and contributed to our program of work. Our Finance Officer works closely with our external management accounts team to ensure an effective monthly program of work including monthly reconciliation.

**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 year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**The risk and control framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Julia Raftery Consulting Ltd for 2023-2024 academic year. This will be reviewed for the 2024-2025 academic year when the school joins Oak Learning Trust MAT.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Regularity and compliance
- Risk management
- Budget management and financial planning
- Cash security and banking arrangements
- Purchasing procedures
- Payroll procedures
- Asset management

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the the Finance, Staffing, Resources & Premises committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

No instances of a material failure in any areas were identified. A small number of areas for potential failure were highlighted and the senior management team have responded with their proposals to address these concerns.

This informed the implementation of a new finance system and added structure to the procedures used within the academy trust. Internal processes are now firmly in place and working well. The Internal Auditors also provided support to our School Finance Officer to set up new processes and procedures to allow for clearer reporting in line with the AFH.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditors;
- the financial management and governance functions of the Finance, Staffing, Resources & Premises Committee;
- the work of the school Finance Officer and Senior Leadership Team within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Staffing, Resources & Premises committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**A Sharp**  
Chair of Trustees



**S P Bowler**  
Accounting Officer

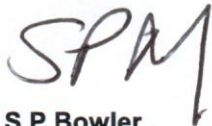
**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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

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



**S P Bowler**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 10 December 2024



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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

**A Sharp**  
Chair





**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MONKTON ACADEMY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Monkton Academy (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

**Material uncertainty related to going concern**

We draw attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which indicates that the the academy trust has reserves of £12,000 at 31 August 2024 which are lower than the reserves policy of £100,000. The governors have set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and expect to return to a surplus in 2025/26. The cashflow forecasts show that all liabilities are paid as they fall due over the next 12 months. The governors are also actively looking at joining a multi academy trust during 2025. As stated in note 1.2, these events or conditions, along with the other matters as set forth in note 1.2, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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.

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



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MONKTON ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion 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 Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MONKTON ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the academy trust. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MONKTON ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

**Use of our report**

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

*Clive Owen*

**Kevin Shotton BA BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
and Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

Darlington

Co Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: *10/12/24*



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MONKTON  
ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Monkton Academy during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of Monkton Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Monkton Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 22 December 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MONKTON  
ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

**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 a review of the design and implementation of the Trust's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on a sample of costs incurred by the Trust and on specific high risk transactions identified from our review.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- Review documentation provided to Directors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Directors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review cash payments for unusual transactions;
- Review of credit card transactions;
- Review of registers of interests;
- Review related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing agreements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- Review whistleblowing procedures;
- Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;
- Review of staff expenses;
- Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- Review governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- Review whether there is a risk register in place.



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MONKTON  
ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

**Conclusion**

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

*Clive Owen ul*

Reporting Accountant  
**Clive Owen LLP**

140 Coniscliffe Road  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL3 7RT

Date: *10/12/24*



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	6	6	20
Other trading activities	5	17	-	-	17	23
Investments		-	5	-	5	1
Charitable activities		6	1,294	-	1,300	1,214
<b>Total income</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,258</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		88	1,275	74	1,437	1,342
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,342</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(65)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(68)</b>	<b>(109)</b>	<b>(84)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	(77)	77	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(65)</b>	<b>(53)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(109)</b>	<b>(84)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	24	-	24	90
Pension Asset Ceiling Restriction		-	(42)	-	(42)	(65)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(65)</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(127)</b>	<b>(59)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		65	83	1,744	1,892	1,951
Net movement in funds		(65)	(71)	9	(127)	(59)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,892</b>

The notes on pages 31 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07984453**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £000		2023 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	12	1,753		1,681
		1,753		1,681
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	13	77	138	
Cash at bank and in hand		51	444	
		128	582	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(116)	(386)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		12	196	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		1,765	1,877	
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>		1,765	1,877	
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	21	-	15	
<b>Total net assets</b>		1,765	1,892	

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07984453**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note		2024 £000		2023 £000
<b>Funds of the academy trust</b>					
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Fixed asset funds	15	1,753		1,744	
Restricted income funds	15	12		68	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset / liability	15	1,765		1,812	
Pension reserve	15	-		15	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	15		1,765		1,827
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15		-		65
<b>Total funds</b>			1,765		1,892

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 27 to 56 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**A Sharp**  
Chair

The notes on pages 31 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	17	(253)	215
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	18	(140)	(151)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(393)	64
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		444	380
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	19, 20	51	444



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**1. Accounting policies**

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 of financial statements**

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

Monkton Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**1.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. The trust has reserves of £12,000 as at 31 August 2024 which is lower than the reserves policy. The Governors have set a balance budget for the academy for 2024/25 and expect to return to surplus budgets in 2025/26. The cashflow forecasts show that all liabilities as a standalone academy are due to be paid as they fall due over the next 12 months.

The Governors are actively looking at joining a multi academy trust during 2025. This therefore creates an uncertainty about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Should the merger not go ahead the Governors have no concerns over the trusts ability to continue to operate as a going concern and for that reason the financial statements continue to be prepared on the going concern basis.

**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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year 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.



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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income (continued)**

**Donations**

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

**Other income**

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

**Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the academy trust)**

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

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

**Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:



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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Long-term leasehold land	- Over the life of the lease
Long term leasehold property	- 50 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 5 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

Assets under construction are held at cost and not depreciated until they are brought into use at which point depreciation will be charged.

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 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.7 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**1.8 Liabilities**

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

**1.9 Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**1.10 Operating leases**

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

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 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 bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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 as detailed in note 14. 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.

**1.12 Taxation**

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.



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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 Pensions**

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate Trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus 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.

**1.14 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 funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, 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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Goodwin

The case related to male spouse or civil partner of a female member is treated in the same way as a same-sex spouse or civil partner. Survivor benefits will be calculated using service from 1 April 1972, or 6 April 1978 if the marriage or civil partnership took place after the last day of pensionable service. This change will apply for deaths in respect of female members which occurred from 5 December 2005, which is the date that same-sex civil partnerships were introduced. This case was brought against the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Actuaries have estimated that the impact of Goodwin indexation to be less than 0.1% of total liabilities. Based on this estimate it would increase liabilities by £498 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

Depreciation – Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £74,000.

The original Local Government Pension scheme valuation showed an asset of £107,000. The asset valuation is highly dependent on a number of assumptions and does not represent the future value of benefits to the trust. As a result, the Trustees commissioned a valuation of the potential benefits to the trust - an asset ceiling valuation. Based on minimum funding requirements for contributions relating to future service this showed a potential asset of £nil. Given the relatively low value combined with the fact that the last Local Government Scheme actuarial review set the contribution rates from 1 April 2023 and that these will not be revised until April 2026 the Trustees have decided to include the pension asset at £nil in respect of this scheme.

Critical areas of judgement:

Land – Land is held under a 125 year lease from South Tyneside Council. These assets are included on the balance sheet of the academy due to the significant risks and rewards of ownership belonging to the academy, the lease term being the major part of the economic life of the assets and the assets being of such a specialised nature that only the academy could use them without major modification.



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

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Donations	-	-	-	1
Capital Grants	-	6	6	19
	-	6	6	20
	1	19	20	
Total 2023				

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**4. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	980	980	907
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	191	191	186
PE and Sport Premium	-	18	18	17
Rates	-	-	-	2
Teachers' pay grant	-	9	9	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	10	10	-
Other DfE Group grants	-	30	30	32
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	12
Mainstream grant	-	37	37	16
	-	1,275	1,275	1,172
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local Authority Grant	-	19	19	12
	-	19	19	12
<b>Other income from the academy trust's academy's educational operations</b>				
	6	-	6	14
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	16
	-	-	-	16
	6	1,294	1,300	1,214
	6	1,294	1,300	1,214
Total 2023	18	1,196	1,214	



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

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Income from facilities and services	7	7	5
Receipts from Supply Teacher Insurance claims	10	10	6
Other	-	-	12
	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>
Total 2023	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	

**6. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2024 £000	Premises 2024 £000	Other 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Academy trust's educational operations:					
Direct costs	844	-	106	950	878
Allocated support costs	143	132	212	487	464
	<u>987</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>1,437</u>	<u>1,342</u>
Total 2023	<u>904</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>1,342</u>	

In 2024, of the total expenditure, £88,000 (2023 - £29,000) was to unrestricted funds, £74,000 (2023 - £77,000) was to restricted fixed asset funds and £1,275,000 (2023 - £1,236,000) was to restricted funds.

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 for:

- Compensation payment
- Gifts made by the academy trust
- Fixed asset losses
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts

There were no gifts made by the academy trust in the year.

There were no ex-gratia payments in the period.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £000	Support costs 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Academy trust's educational operations	950	487	1,437	1,342
Total 2023	878	464	1,342	

**Analysis of direct costs**

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	844	790
Educational supplies	82	70
Staff development	2	3
Technology costs	22	12
Other costs	-	3
	950	878



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

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Staff costs	143	114
Depreciation	74	77
Technology costs	18	15
Supply insurance	12	8
Transport	7	-
Maintenance of premises	12	37
Cleaning	10	4
Other premises costs	12	14
Energy	21	18
Rent & rates	3	2
Insurance	5	6
Catering	70	76
Other costs	83	76
Governance costs	17	17
	<u>487</u>	<u>464</u>

**8. Net (expenditure)/income**

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	10	11
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	74	77
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	8	8
- other services	9	6
	<u>91</u>	<u>172</u>

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**9. Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Wages and salaries	721	621
Social security costs	58	59
Pension costs	162	156
	941	836
Agency staff costs	46	57
Severance payments	-	11
	987	904

Included within the operating costs of defined benefit pension scheme is a debit of £2,000 (2023: £15,000) in respect of movement in the LGPS pension asset.

**b. Severance payments**

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£0 - £25,000	-	1
	-	1

**c. Staff numbers**

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teaching staff	6	6
Administration and support	13	11
Management	5	5
	24	22



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

**9. Staff (continued)**

**d. Higher paid staff**

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £381,000 (2023 : £310,000).

**10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2024 £000	2023 £000
A Moat	Remuneration	25 - 30	0 - 5
	Pension contributions paid	5 - 10	0 - 5
S Bowler	Remuneration	85 - 90	80 - 85
	Pension contributions paid	20 - 25	15 - 20
V Sheriff	Remuneration	50 - 55	30 - 35
	Pension contributions paid	10 - 15	5 - 10
K Anderson	Remuneration	0 - 5	15 - 20
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5	0 - 5

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

**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 business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	1,992	112	138	2,242
Additions	69	67	10	146
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,061</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>2,388</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	356	80	125	561
Charge for the year	39	26	9	74
At 31 August 2024	<u>395</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>635</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>1,666</u></u>	<u><u>73</u></u>	<u><u>14</u></u>	<u><u>1,753</u></u>
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>1,636</u></u>	<u><u>32</u></u>	<u><u>13</u></u>	<u><u>1,681</u></u>



**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**13. Debtors**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	77	138
	77	138
	77	138

**14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade creditors	1	263
Other taxation and social security	26	25
Other creditors	22	17
Accruals and deferred income	67	81
	116	386
	116	386

**MONKTON ACADEMY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**15. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	65	23	(88)	-	-	-
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant	68	980	(959)	(77)	-	12
Pupil Premium	-	191	(191)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	104	(104)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	19	(19)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	15	5	(2)	-	(18)	-
	<u>83</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>(1,275)</u>	<u>(77)</u>	<u>(18)</u>	<u>12</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Legacy assets	1,034	-	(25)	-	-	1,009
Devolved Formula Capital	29	6	(8)	-	-	27
GAG capital expenditure	87	-	(28)	77	-	136
Other restricted fixed asset fund	169	-	(4)	-	-	165
CIF funding	419	-	(9)	-	-	410
Donations	6	-	-	-	-	6
	<u>1,744</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,753</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>1,827</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>(1,349)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18)</u>	<u>1,765</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>1,892</u></u>	<u><u>1,328</u></u>	<u><u>(1,437)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(18)</u></u>	<u><u>1,765</u></u>



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**15. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (included within Other DfE/ESFA Grants) is funding to provide a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants also includes the PE and sport premium grant, rates relief, teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant, MSAG and supplementary grant.

Other Government grants include Early Years funding for three and four year old children, funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and other income from the local authority.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 21.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs allocated accordingly.

A transfer of £77,000 has been made to capital expenditure from GAG to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased using GAG monies.

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

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**15. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	52	42	(29)	-	-	65
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant	121	908	(933)	(28)	-	68
Pupil Premium	-	158	(158)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	79	(79)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	28	(28)	-	-	-
Other COVID-19 funding	-	16	(16)	-	-	-
Other income	-	8	(8)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	4	-	(14)	-	25	15
	<u>125</u>	<u>1,197</u>	<u>(1,236)</u>	<u>(28)</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>83</u>



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**15. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Restricted fixed asset funds**

Legacy assets	1,060	-	(26)	-	-	1,034
Devolved Formula Capital	22	19	(12)	-	-	29
GAG capital expenditure	81	-	(22)	28	-	87
Other restricted fixed asset fund	173	-	(4)	-	-	169
CIF funding	425	-	(6)	-	-	419
Donations	13	-	(7)	-	-	6
	<u>1,774</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>(77)</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,744</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>1,899</u>	<u>1,216</u>	<u>(1,313)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,827</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>1,951</u></u>	<u><u>1,258</u></u>	<u><u>(1,342)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>25</u></u>	<u><u>1,892</u></u>

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,753	1,753
Current assets	128	-	128
Creditors due within one year	(116)	-	(116)
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>12</u></u>	<u><u>1,753</u></u>	<u><u>1,765</u></u>

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**16. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,681	1,681
Current assets	80	439	63	582
Creditors due within one year	(15)	(371)	-	(386)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	15	-	15
<b>Total</b>	<u>65</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>1,744</u>	<u>1,892</u>

**17. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(109)	(84)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	74	77
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(6)	(19)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	3	14
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(5)	(1)
Decrease in debtors	61	32
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(271)	196
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(253)</u>	<u>215</u>

**18. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(146)	(314)
Capital grants from DfE Group	6	163
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<u>(140)</u>	<u>(151)</u>



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**19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	51	444
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>444</b>

**20. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2023 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	444	(393)	51
	444	(393)	51

**21. Pension commitments**

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 South Tyneside Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £20,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £15,000) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. 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.

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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £136,000 (2023 - £118,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £36,000 (2023 - £33,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £26,000 (2023 - £24,000) and employees' contributions totalled £10,000 (2023 - £9,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.5% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

The original Local Government Pension scheme valuation showed an asset of £107,000. That asset valuation is highly dependent on a number of assumptions and does not represent the future value of benefits to the trust. As a result an asset ceiling valuation has been undertaken. Based on minimum funding requirements for contributions relating to future service this showed a potential asset of £Nil. Given this value combined with the fact that the last Local Government Scheme actuarial review set the contribution rates from 1 April 2023 and that these will not be revised until April 2026 the trustees have decided to include the pension asset at £Nil.

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0	4.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5	2.6
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.9	5.0
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5	2.6
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	75.0	75.0

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	20.8	21.0
Females	24.0	24.1
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.7	22.2
Females	25.1	25.5

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Sensitivity analysis**

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(9)	(8)
Discount rate -0.1%	9	8
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(10)	(9)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	10	9
CPI rate +0.1%	8	7
CPI rate -0.1%	(8)	(7)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	At 31 August 2024 £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Equities	249	218
Government bonds	6	6
Corporate bonds	93	81
Property	52	44
Cash and other liquid assets	4	7
Multi asset credit	22	20
Other	72	50
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<u>          </u> 498	<u>          </u> 426

The actual return on scheme assets was £43,000 (2023 - £158,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Interest income	22	24
Interest cost	(17)	(23)
Current service cost	(28)	(39)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<u>          </u> (23)	<u>          </u> (38)



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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	426	559
Current service cost current year	28	39
Interest cost	17	23
Employee contributions	10	9
Actuarial gains	(3)	(272)
Benefits paid	(7)	(12)
Asset ceiling restriction	27	80
<b>At 31 August</b>	498	426

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	426	563
Interest income	22	24
Actuarial gains/(losses)	21	(182)
Employer contributions	26	24
Employee contributions	10	9
Benefits paid	(7)	(12)
<b>At 31 August</b>	498	426

**22. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2024 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Not later than 1 year	3	3
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4	7
	7	10

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**23. Related party transactions**

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

**Expenditure related party transactions**

J Henderson, the wife of N Henderson, a Trustee, is employed within the academy trust as a teaching assistant. J Henderson's appointment was made in open competition and the Trustee was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. J Henderson is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a Trustee.