

Registration number: 07728828

Grove Learning Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

GROVE LEARNING TRUST
CONTENTS

Reference and administrative details	1
Trustees' report	2 to 12
Governance statement	13 to 16
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	18
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	19 to 22
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	23 to 24
Statement of Financial Activities	25 to 26
Balance Sheet	27
Statement of Cash Flows	28
Notes to the Financial Statements	29 to 55

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	C Bassett (appointed 1 October 2022) K Chapple V Parker (resigned 31 January 2023) R Sperti K Weise
Trustees (Directors)	C Bassett (resigned 22 September 2022) J Blain (resigned 31 March 2023) K Chapple, Chair of Trustees C Evans (resigned 27 September 2022) A Griffiths (accounting officer) J Hollingsworth R James J Milsom, Chair of Standards and Performance Committee S Rosser (resigned 31 March 2023) A Howroyd (appointed 6 May 2023) A Bedfordth (appointed 6 May 2023) T Cleverly (appointed 6 May 2023)
Company Secretary	P Bartlett
Senior Management Team	A Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer P Bartlett, Chief Finance and Operations Officer A Wilson, Director of Education
Principal and Registered Office	C/O Wroughton Junior Schhol Inverary Road Wroughton Swindon SN4 9DL
Company Registration Number	07728828
Auditors	Albert Goodman Senior Statutory Auditor Goodwood House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton TA1 2PX
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN
Solicitors	PHP Law 6 Delamore Park Cornwood Ivybridge PL21 9QP

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Grove Learning Trust opened as a multi academy trust on 1st December 2019 (previously known as Eastrop Infant School which was incorporated in 2011) and is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Directors of Grove Learning Trust are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Grove Learning Trust.

Details of the Directors who served throughout the year and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Directors benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Directors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Directors knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Directors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Directors in their capacity as Directors of the Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trust shall have the following Directors as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 8 Directors who are appointed by members.
- the Chief Executive Officer who is treated for all purposes as being ex officio

Directors are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Any Director can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Directors, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Directors in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Trust has strong induction procedures for our governance team, held by our governance lead.

The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of at least one of the academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Directors. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by professional bodies. Directors have access to an online suite of training resources.

Organisational structure

The Board of Directors meets once each term (six times per year). The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are 2 committees as follows:

- Resources, Audit and Risk (RAR) Committee - this meets at least five times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer/internal audit and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.
- Standards & Performance (S&P) Committee - this meets at least five times a year to monitor, evaluate and review policy, practice, and performance in relation to safeguarding, admissions, curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment, examinations, and all pastoral issues.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Directors: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson, to appoint the Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board of Directors, to approve the Trust's Strategic Business Plan and associated budgets.

The Board of Directors has devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Finance and Operations (CFOO), Director of Education (DoE) and to the Heads of School and Senior Management Team (SMT) in the individual academies. The SMT implement the policies laid down by the Directors and report back to them on performance through DoE. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement and empower decision making at all levels and closest to the point of impact.

The CEO, CFOO, DoE and Heads of School are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of this is in the Scheme of Delegation. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders which must be authorised in line with the Scheme of Delegation. At academy level, the Head of School is responsible for the appointment of school staff.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Directors consider the central team and the academy senior leadership team as the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Directors give their time freely and no Director received remuneration in the year.

Details of Directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

Mr R J James is also a director and trustee of Highworth Warneford School.

Two schools in the Trust buy in catering from Highworth Warneford School under an SLA. This has provided the expertise required under our budget constraints. During the period, the total amount charged for catering was £73,107 (2021/22: £63,767).

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal activity of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing, and developing schools, offering a broad range of curriculum subjects for pupils of different abilities.

At Grove Learning Trust, we aim to be recognised locally and nationally as a beacon of educational excellence.

We achieve this for all the schools in our trust by:

- Creating an environment where everyone feels proud to belong and can be themselves
- Enabling families to access outstanding provision with seamless and effective transition from one stage to the next
- Championing and nurturing children so that they are confident and independent citizens
- Planning and delivering an engaging and wide curriculum so that life opportunities are broadened
- Supporting children and adults, through active school-to-school connections, exemplary teaching, and professional development, to be aspirational and lifelong learners
- Encouraging our community of schools to enjoy a safe and sustainable environment, treading softly and mindfully to protect the Earth for centuries to come
- Engaging with communities collaboratively, promoting collective responsibility for inclusive and outward facing relationships, eradicating isolation in whatever form it exists
- Sharing successes and helping each other to realise that learning has no limits

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Objectives, strategies and activities

The strategic aims of the Trust each year are informed by:

- The trust's vision, Strategic plan and Risk Register
- School-specific quality assurance visits carried out by the trust's education team
- External validation and quality assurance from experts the fields of education and finance
- School effectiveness reviews, led by the CEO, held once every 2 academic terms
- Monthly financial monitoring / benchmarking undertaken by the CFOO
- Self-evaluation undertaken by the Board of Directors and executive leaders
- Feedback from the Regional Director's office / project lead for Swindon & Wiltshire

As a result, our strategic aims for 2023-24 are set out across 5 key areas:

1. High Quality & Inclusive Education
2. School Improvement
3. Strategic Governance
4. Financial Management
5. Workforce

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Grove Learning Trust was first founded on 1 December 2019 and is in its third full academic year of operation as a multi academy trust, which. As well as the growing the Trust to 5 schools we have made significant progress against our 5 key strategic areas for 2022/23, including:

High Quality & Inclusive Education

- Launched a new, trust-wide disadvantaged learner strategy
- Delivered curriculum workshops to support the trust's review of subject intent & implementation, resulting in a full suite of principles set out via 'GLT curriculum on a page'
- Developed a GLT Passport – a curriculum entitlement offer for all learners in all GLT schools
- Achieved aggregated outcomes at the end of Early Years, KS1 (including phonics check) and KS2 which are at least in line with, but in many areas above, the national average for 2022/3

School Improvement

- Expanded the trust's education team by appointing a school improvement lead with expertise in curriculum pedagogy, with relevant headship experience
- Developed several networks to support the professional development and capacity of leaders across our trust
- Secured a DfE new school build for Wroughton Infant School

Strategic Governance

- Refreshed our mission, vision and values
- Developed our in-house expertise by appointing a Trust Governance Lead
- Partnered with an established trust to build strong systems for effective governance at GLT

Financial Management

- Successfully onboarded Oakhurst Community Primary School
- Created new model business continuity & estates management plans
- Secured approximately £160,000 in external TCAF funding

Workforce

- Developed a mental health and wellbeing platform for staff feedback and collaboration
- Procured a new, trust-wide payroll service and access to a comprehensive mental health and wellbeing app for supporting all GLT staff and colleagues

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Pupil Outcomes

- As a trust, we have achieved outcomes which are in line with, or above national for 2022/23

		National	Trust Aggregated Data
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	Good Level of Development (GLD)	65%	67%

Phonics	Year 1	75%	76%
	Year 2	87%	96%

Key Stage 1 Expected Standard+	Reading	67%	77%
	Writing	58%	68%
	Maths	68%	79%
Higher Standard	Reading	18%	24%
	Writing	8%	11%
	Maths	15%	20%

Key Stage 2 Attainment Data		National	Trust Aggregated Data
Expected Standard+	Reading	73%	79%
	Writing	71%	77%
	Maths	73%	75%
	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	72%	76%
Higher Standard	Reading		32%
	Writing		21%
	Maths		21%
	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar		29%
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	Expected Standard+	59%	65%
	Higher Standard		10%

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Key financial performance indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention. In period under review, £448,923 (21/22: £430,837), was carried forward representing 10.71% (21/22: 14.56%) of GAG.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is also a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2023 were 1315 (21/22: 915). It is anticipated that this number will continue to rise as the Trust pursues its plans for growth through integration of additional schools. The predicted intake for our current schools is lower in the next two years and work to address the PAN is underway.. Furthermore, successful nursery provision has delivered healthy intake into Eastrop Infant School each year and the subsequent flow through into Southfields Junior School.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of GAG. For 2023 this was 98.99% (21/22: 91.2%). The Trust continued to take a strategic and long-term view of staffing levels and recruitment to right-size resource according to the Trust's forecasts for intake fluctuations over the coming years.

In summary, excluding the LGPS pension movement:

- Eastrop Infant School ended the year with a surplus of £148,132 (21/22: £206,928)
- Southfield Junior School ended the year with a deficit of £68,852 (21/22: £97,609)
- Wroughton Infants School ended the year with a surplus of £98,722 (21/22: 2,126,373)
- Wroughton Junior School ended the year with a surplus of £162,384 (21/22: 2,847,184)
- Oakhurst Community Primary School ended the year with a surplus of £3,410,732 (21/22: n/a)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Financial review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academies also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Trust received total income of £9,165,797 (21/22: £9,165,797) and incurred total expenditure of £6,124,318 (21/22: £4,145,145).

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £11,161,864 (21/22: £8,045,708) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Land, buildings and other assets were transferred to the Trust upon conversion to academies. Other assets have been included in the financial statements at a best estimate, taking into account purchase price and remaining useful lives.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, CEO, CFOO, Head Teacher, managers, budget holders and other staff as well as delegated authority for spending. Other policies reviewed and updated included Charges and Lettings, Building Management, Reserves and Insurance.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Reserves policy

The Directors review the forecast reserve levels of the Trust at each Board meeting and annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Directors take into consideration performance throughout the year, the Trusts' future plans, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be approximately at least 7% of total income per academy and a £50k contingency held by the central services. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. This is the balance that the Directors monitor in accordance with the Board's reserves policy.

Planned use of reserves

In view of the ongoing macro-economic uncertainty and in particular the high inflationary environment, the Directors consider it prudent to maintain a higher than normal level of reserves. However planned use of the reserves are considered. Historic uses have been to improve the trusts' estates, central services and functions. Any planned use of the reserves will be approved by the board beforehand.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

As planned, the Equal Pay Loan was paid off early from the prior year surplus, reducing medium- and long-term risks to the Trust's reserves.

Investment policy

Due to the nature and timing of receipt of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short-term requirements. The Directors have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is currently authorised. However, in view of the Directors decision to maintain a higher than normal level of reserves as cushion against macro-economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures, the Trust's investment policy was reviewed in the year.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board of Directors has reviewed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Financial - the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year (excluding amounts in connection with the additional schools joining Grove Learning Trust) 94.09% (21/22: 88.2%) of the Academy's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

In addition, the directors acknowledge a high inflationary environment introduces upward pressure on operating costs, not all of which are within the Trust's control. For example certain staff costs are set by Government and the uncertainty around energy costs and inflation can prove challenging.

Directors and management continue to explore opportunities for revenue diversification and cost optimisation across the Trust over the medium to longer term.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. This is more relevant in the next few years as numbers on roll are forecast to reduce as our school communities are maturing communities. The reduction of the PANs are to be considered for future years. The schools are actively engaged in the marketing, promoting and arrange for many opportunities for prospective parents/carers to view all the wonderful activities that go on in our schools.

Alongside this is the recruitment difficulties that currently exist in the education work force. The trust strives to be the trust that employees want to work for. And it constantly evolving its benefits and offerings to current and new employees to attract the best candidates for vacancies. The success of the trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff. The directors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of all staff as a well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds – The Trust has robust systems in place to mitigate fraud and mismanagement risks. An externally appointed internal auditor is used to carry out checks on financial systems and record as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All trust staff received fraud and cyber fraud training and the finance team receive enhanced training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements. Monthly management accounts are produced and shared with the RAR committee and the Board.

Estates - The trust has just implemented its estate strategic plan in line with Good Estates Management for Schools (GEMS) to ensure all the trusts estates are maintained to a high level to create safe, exciting, and inspiring learning spaces for our pupils, both indoors and outdoors, further enhancing their educational experience. We continuously improve the resilience of our school estates both land and buildings, leading improvement projects and the day to day running of the estate to enable school leaders to focus on creating academic excellence in their settings. We aim to promote innovation in energy efficiency and are committed to seek new ways in which to build sustainability, thereby reducing our carbon footprint and ultimately creating a better future for our children.

Safeguarding and child protection – The Directors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and behaviour.

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

Fundraising

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

Plans for future periods

The Trust is set to grow to 8 academies, with 3 standalone academies applying to join in February 2024. This will take the Trust pupil numbers to approximately 2,130, and a staff team of 350. This will strengthen and enhance the Trust's capacity of leadership and allow the central functions to increase its offering to the schools. This growth will put the Trust 7 years ahead of its strategic growth plan. The Trust was successful in winning a bid for a new school build at one of its schools as part of the rebuilding schools programme. This is due to commence in the next 2 to 3 years.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

The Trust and its Directors do not act as the Custodian Directors of any other Charity.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on ~~16.12.23~~ and signed on its behalf by:


.....
K Chapple, Chair of Trustees
Trustee

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to A Griffiths, Trustee, 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 Grove Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 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 Griffiths	6	6
R James	6	6
J Milsom	6	6
P Bartlett	5	6
K Chapple, Chair of Trustees	6	6
A Howroyd	3	3
T Cleverly	3	3
J Hollingsworth	6	6
A Bedford	3	3
S Rosser	0	3
J Blain	1	3

The Resources Audit & Risk committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor, evaluate and review policy and performance in relation to financial management. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Griffiths	5	5
R James	5	5
P Bartlett	5	5
K Chapple, Chair of Trustees	5	5
A Howroyd	3	3
C Bassett	1	1
S Rosser	2	3
A Bedford	3	3

GROVE LEARNING TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Standards & Performance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to review staffing levels, support with new appointments, and review the performance management. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Griffiths	4	4
J Milsom	4	4
J Hollingsworth	3	4
T Cleverly	2	2
J Blain	1	2
A Wilson	4	4
K Chapple	0	2

Governance reviews

Recruiting and retaining high-calibre Governors for the independent academy committees has continued to be a challenge throughout this year however, to support this the trust have developed an induction information pack for all who are new to the governance team, including an academy committee governance handbook. The Trust has been pro-active in identifying and addressing areas of under-performance and has procured a training package (online) which is available to all. Additional in-house training continues to develop as well as the communication links between the layers of governance. Support to academy committee governors is available from the board and this has proven successful with directors each attending one academy committee meeting during the year. In addition, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Board, Board Committees and Academy Committees meet periodically to discuss performance across the various committees and ways in which Governance and communication can be enhanced to the benefit of all. Escalations from academy committees is a standing item at S&P meetings and governance is reported through the governance lead at all Board meetings.

Conflict of Interest – The Trust holds a register for all pecuniary interests of its members, directors and academy committee members and staff. All are required to review and update annually and will be amended throughout the year as needed. The register of interests is a permanent agenda item on all member, director and academy committee meetings.

The Trust saw the composition of Directors stabilise during the year with the successful appointment of new Directors. The Trust appointed proactive individuals with the necessary skills and experience which align with the scheme of delegation. This includes MAT CEO and governance experience, risk management and board experience as well as a qualified financial professional. The new Directors integrated quickly, and the Board regularly reviews the balance of skills and expertise available to the Trust to ensure success and continued rigorous governance. Skills and committee composition, including term of office are reviewed by the members group, who meet three times per year. The ability to join meetings remotely has positively impacted on attendance.

Directors have been instrumental in developing reporting mechanisms that align with growth and the quality of data contained within such reports has evolved to ensure Directors can maintain key strategic oversight and offer effective support and challenge.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Ensuring the trust meets the criteria set out in the trust's agreed financial handbook
- Organising and delivering training for trust and school leaders through monthly trust leadership team meetings
- Successfully attaining trust capacity funding (TCAF) to the value of approx. £160,000
- Interrogating, with the CFOO, the integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP) metrics, benchmarking these against the trust's data
- Going out for tender for new payroll providers and legal advice providers
- Employing a third party to review and tender for new IT services for all schools
- The implementation of the Estates Strategic Plan ensures that money is spent where it is most needed to minimise any ongoing or increasing costs to the upkeep of the estates.

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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Grove Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The trust risk register is reviewed regularly by the CFOO, CEO, DoE and Governance Lead, and shared as a standing item at each RAR and Board meeting. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the RAR 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;

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ James Cowper Kreston as internal auditor. 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 and other systems. The checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of budgeting and financial monitoring
- testing of income and processes
- compliance
- testing of payroll and procedures

On an annual basis, the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Resources, Audit & Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual 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.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the internal auditor to date.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, A Griffiths, Trustee 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 external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;
- correspondence from ESFA: FNI/Ntl and 'minded to' letters

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee Finance and General Purposes Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on ^{15.1.24}..... and signed on its behalf by:


K Chapple, Chair of Trustees
Trustee


A Griffiths
Trustee

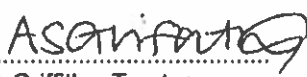
GROVE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Grove Learning Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, 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 funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that 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.


.....
A Griffiths, Trustee
Accounting officer

Date: 16.1.24
.....

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring 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 on 15.1.24 and signed on its behalf by:


K Chapple, Chair of Trustees
Trustee

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GROVE LEARNING TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Grove Learning Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that act. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The 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 auditor's report thereon. 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.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GROVE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' 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 and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 18], the Trustees 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'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 or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GROVE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

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

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

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Academy through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Academy, including the Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, Charities SORP 2019, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the academy's legal advisors.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
GROVE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

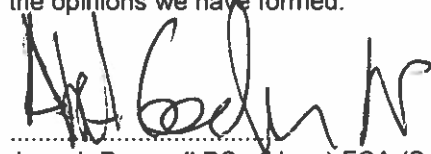
There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance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

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

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's Trustees, 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's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy and its Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Joseph Daggrell BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Albert Goodman, Statutory Auditor

Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

Date: 16/1/24

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY

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

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

Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Board of Trustees' funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

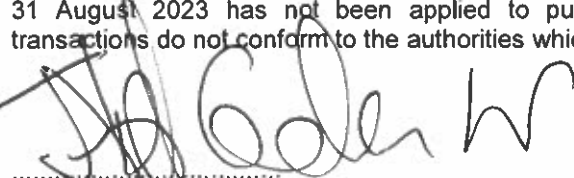
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY (CONTINUED)

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing compliance against the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook (September 2022);
- A review of the governance policies and procedures with specific consideration of financial planning, monitoring and control;
- Gaining assurance that the lines of delegation and the limits set both internally by the academy and by ESFA have been adhered to;
- A review of all meeting minutes of the board trustees;
- An examination of financial transactions to identify any unusual items which may be improper; and
- A review of the declaration of interests completed by the trustees.

Conclusion

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



.....
Joseph Doggrell BSc (Hons) FCA
For and on behalf of Albert Goodman , Chartered Accountants

Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2PX

Date: 16/1/2024

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Voluntary income					
Donations and capital grants	2	17,384	-	206,401	223,785
Transfer from local authority on conversion		391,379	-	3,029,814	3,421,193
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	5,181,635	-	5,181,635
Other trading activities	4	339,021	-	-	339,021
Investments	5	163	-	-	163
Total		747,947	5,181,635	3,236,215	9,165,797
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	270,607	5,617,564	236,147	6,124,318
Net income/(expenditure)		477,340	(435,929)	3,000,068	3,041,479
Transfers between funds		-	(84,579)	84,579	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gain/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	25	-	883,000	-	883,000
Net movement in funds		477,340	362,492	3,084,647	3,924,479
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		485,837	(224,569)	8,098,740	8,360,008
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		963,177	137,923	11,183,387	12,284,487

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Voluntary income					
Donations and capital grants	2	11,417	-	208,306	219,723
Transfer from local authority on conversion		440,835	(795,000)	4,425,000	4,070,835
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	3,604,792	-	3,604,792
Other trading activities	4	262,908	-	-	262,908
Investments	5	85	-	-	85
Total		715,245	2,809,792	4,633,306	8,158,343
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	322,174	3,525,127	165,897	4,013,198
Net income/(expenditure)		393,071	(715,335)	4,467,409	4,145,145
Transfers between funds		29,786	(87,715)	57,929	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	1,112,000	-	1,112,000
Net movement in funds		422,857	308,950	4,525,338	5,257,145
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		62,980	(533,519)	3,573,402	3,102,863
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022		485,837	(224,569)	8,098,740	8,360,008

GROVE LEARNING TRUST
(REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07728828)
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

			(As restated)
	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	11,161,864	8,045,708
Current assets			
Debtors	13	489,836	907,065
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,871,114</u>	<u>645,048</u>
		2,360,950	1,552,113
Liabilities		<u>(927,327)</u>	<u>(550,106)</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		1,433,623	1,002,007
Net current assets		12,595,487	9,047,715
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(26,707)</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	-	
Net assets excluding pension liability		12,595,487	9,021,008
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	<u>(311,000)</u>	<u>(661,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u>12,284,487</u>	<u>8,360,008</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	16	137,923	(224,569)
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	<u>11,183,387</u>	<u>8,098,740</u>
		11,321,310	7,874,171
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	16	<u>963,177</u>	<u>485,837</u>
Total funds		<u>12,284,487</u>	<u>8,360,008</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 55 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 15.1.24 and signed on their behalf by:


 K Cheppie, Chair of Trustees
 Trustee

GROVE LEARNING TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	(As restated) 2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	4,398,512	4,702,180
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(3,145,739)	(4,534,060)
Cash flows from financing activities		<u>(26,707)</u>	<u>26,707</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,226,066	194,827
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>645,048</u>	<u>450,221</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	<u><u>1,871,114</u></u>	<u><u>645,048</u></u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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.

Basis of preparation

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

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 company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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.

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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 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/reducing balance] basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Long-term leasehold land	- straight line over 125 years
Leasehold property	- straight line between 25 - 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- straight line between 5-10 years
Computer equipment	- straight line over 4 - 20 years

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.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

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

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on 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 net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Fund accounting

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

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

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

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.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)**

1 Accounting policies (continued)***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions***

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

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

Prior period adjustment

The comparative year has been restated to reduce the property valuations on conversion at Wroughton Infant School and Wroughton Junior School by £9,830,000 in line with the ESFA valuation received during 2023. Depreciation has been adjusted accordingly and decreased by £44,620.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Other voluntary income				
Capital grants DfE/ESFA	-	206,401	206,401	208,306
Other donations	17,384	-	17,384	11,417
	<u>17,384</u>	<u>206,401</u>	<u>223,785</u>	<u>219,723</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations**

	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,190,089	4,190,089	2,958,999
Other DfE/ESFA grants	243,232	243,232	100,559
Trust capacity fund	-	-	53,058
Pupil Premium	253,717	253,717	140,718
UFSM	125,886	125,886	77,350
PE Grant	72,080	72,080	50,640
	<u>4,885,004</u>	<u>4,885,004</u>	<u>3,381,324</u>
Other government grants			
Local authority - SEN and Early Years funding	296,631	296,631	223,468
Total grants	<u>5,181,635</u>	<u>5,181,635</u>	<u>3,604,792</u>

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Other Income (unrestricted)	195,961	195,961	180,513
Internal catering income	143,060	143,060	82,395
	<u>339,021</u>	<u>339,021</u>	<u>262,908</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Short term deposits	<u>163</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>85</u>

6 Expenditure

Non Pay Expenditure				
Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	2022/23 Total £	(As restated) 2021/22 Total £
Academy's educational operations				
Direct costs	1,871,941	-	297,496	2,169,437
Allocated support costs	<u>2,809,182</u>	<u>575,045</u>	<u>570,654</u>	<u>3,954,881</u>
	<u>4,681,123</u>	<u>575,045</u>	<u>868,150</u>	<u>6,124,318</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:				
			2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Depreciation			236,147	210,517
Fees payable to auditor - audit			8,775	8,150
- other audit services			<u>2,850</u>	<u>2,650</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	(As restated) 2021/22
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	2,169,437	1,473,456
Support costs - educational operations	3,954,881	2,539,742
	6,124,318	4,013,198
	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£
Analysis of direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	1,871,941	1,283,216
Educational supplies	131,651	74,797
Other direct costs	93,058	58,472
Technology costs	72,787	56,971
Total direct costs	2,169,437	1,473,456
	2022/23 Total	(As restated) 2021/22 Total
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,809,182	1,701,961
Depreciation	236,147	165,898
Rent, rates and utilities	101,227	75,741
Insurance	20,469	13,258
Catering	210,568	138,207
Maintenance of premises and equipment	131,299	82,828
Cleaning	106,372	87,680
Professional fees	158,658	137,631
Other support costs	180,959	136,538
Total support costs	3,954,881	2,539,742

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****8 Staff****Staff costs**

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	3,156,119	2,068,761
Social security costs	270,750	179,541
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,254,254	736,875
	<u>4,681,123</u>	<u>2,985,177</u>
Staff severance payments	-	-
	<u>4,681,123</u>	<u>2,985,177</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2023	2022
	No	No
Charitable Activities		
Teachers	71	40
Administration and support	147	61
Management	8	7
	<u>226</u>	<u>108</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

8 Staff (continued)

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 £600,492 (2022: £470,017).

9 Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Administration services
- Audit services
- Data protection
- Education support
- Financial services
- Governance
- Health and Safety
- Human resources
- Insurance
- Legal services
- Professional services

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

10% of total budgeted income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Eastrop Infant School	9,284	87,305
Southfield Junior School	86,523	101,425
Wroughton Infant School	127,372	58,588
Wroughton Junior School	97,320	75,723
Oakhurst Community Primary School	10,380	-
	<u>330,879</u>	<u>323,041</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from 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, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

A Griffiths (Chief Executive Officer):

Remuneration: £90,000 - £95,000 (2022 - £85,000 - £90,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £Nil (2022 - £Nil)

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Property improvements £	2022/23 Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	8,400,292	132,832	182,782	-	376,324	9,092,230
Additions	-	69,772	18,510	13,995	233,512	335,789
Transferred on conversion	3,016,514	-	-	-	-	3,016,514
At 31 August 2023	11,416,806	202,604	201,292	13,995	609,836	12,444,533
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	765,653	105,554	120,829	-	54,486	1,046,522
Charge for the year	197,212	9,019	14,726	1,866	13,324	236,147
At 31 August 2023	962,865	114,573	135,555	1,866	67,810	1,282,669
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	10,453,941	88,031	65,737	12,129	542,026	11,161,864
At 31 August 2022	7,634,639	27,278	61,953	-	321,838	8,045,708

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)**

12 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

During the year, one new school joined the MAT and therefore an additional building has been brought into the financial statements. This value is currently included in the financial statements on the estimated cost of the building in relation to the pupil capacity.

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,287	1,091
VAT recoverable	82,208	49,907
Other debtors	-	168,379
Prepayments and accrued income	404,341	687,688
	<u>489,836</u>	<u>907,065</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	396,489	242,519
Other taxation and social security	78,141	54,558
Other creditors	253,629	67,203
Accruals and deferred income	199,068	185,826
	<u>927,327</u>	<u>550,106</u>
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	79,764	32,917
Resources deferred in the period	113,257	79,764
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(79,764)</u>	<u>(32,917)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>113,257</u>	<u>79,764</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding UIFSM and other income received in advance for the 2023/24 academic year.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>26,707</u>

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is £nil (2022: £5,909).

The loan relates to amounts due to Swindon Unitary Authority in respect of equal pay loan claims which arose both prior to conversion to an Academy. The total amount was repaid in full in the year as the Trust had sufficient reserves.

The total amount outstanding at the year end was £nil (2022: £29,786)

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	430,837	4,190,089	(4,057,638)	(114,365)	448,923
UIFSM	-	125,886	(125,886)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	253,717	(253,717)	-	-
PE Grant	-	72,080	(72,080)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	35,380	184,787	(220,167)	-	-
Equal Pay Loan	(29,786)	-	-	29,786	-
Local authority grants	-	296,631	(296,631)	-	-
Pension reserve	(661,000)	-	(533,000)	883,000	(311,000)
Mainstream Additional Grant	-	58,445	(58,445)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	<u>(224,569)</u>	<u>5,181,635</u>	<u>(5,617,564)</u>	<u>798,421</u>	<u>137,923</u>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Transferred on Conversion	7,281,545	3,029,814	(190,579)	-	10,120,780
Purchased From Restricted Funds	355,305	-	(23,528)	23,221	354,998
DFC Grant	64,796	85,620	(4,402)	23,559	169,573
CIF Grant	397,094	120,781	(17,638)	37,799	538,036
Total restricted fixed asset funds	<u>8,098,740</u>	<u>3,236,215</u>	<u>(236,147)</u>	<u>84,579</u>	<u>11,183,387</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>7,874,171</u>	<u>8,417,850</u>	<u>(5,853,711)</u>	<u>883,000</u>	<u>11,321,310</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General	15,216	356,568	(270,607)	-	101,177
Conversion	470,621	391,379	-	-	862,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>485,837</u>	<u>747,947</u>	<u>(270,607)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>963,177</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>8,360,008</u>	<u>9,165,797</u>	<u>(6,124,318)</u>	<u>883,000</u>	<u>12,284,487</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	125,249	2,958,999	(2,583,575)	(69,836)	430,837
UIFSM	-	77,350	(77,350)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	140,718	(140,718)	-	-
PE Grant	8,759	50,640	(59,399)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	50,000	153,617	(153,617)	(14,620)	35,380
Equal Pay Loan	(26,527)	-	-	(3,259)	(29,786)
Local authority grants	-	223,468	(223,468)	-	-
Pension reserve	(691,000)	(795,000)	(287,000)	1,112,000	(661,000)
Total restricted general funds	(533,519)	2,809,792	(3,525,127)	1,024,285	(224,569)
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Transferred on Conversion	2,994,172	4,425,000	(137,627)	-	7,281,545
Purchased From Restricted Funds	354,394	-	(20,096)	21,007	355,305
DFC Grant	40,330	26,623	(2,157)	-	64,796
CIF Grant	184,506	181,683	(6,017)	36,922	397,094
Total restricted fixed asset funds	3,573,402	4,633,306	(165,897)	57,929	8,098,740
Total restricted funds	3,039,883	7,443,098	(3,691,024)	1,082,214	7,874,171
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General	62,980	274,410	(322,174)	-	15,216
Conversion	-	440,835	-	29,786	470,621
Total unrestricted funds	62,980	715,245	(322,174)	29,786	485,837
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	3,102,863	8,158,343	(4,013,198)	1,112,000	8,360,008

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

16 Funds (continued)

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

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The General Annual Grant (GAG) - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) - Funding from the ESFA to contribute to the costs of providing free school meals to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Pupil Premium - Funding received from the ESFA during the year for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the school to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

PE Grant - Funding received from the ESFA to improve the PE and sport provision, for the benefit of primary aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Other ESFA grants - ESFA grants towards the Teachers' pension and pay awards.

Local Authority - Includes High Needs funding to fund further support for pupils with additional needs and funding towards the nursery.

Donations - Monies given to the school from the PTA and local donors. This was spent during the year on educational trips and equipment.

The Equal Pay Loan is amounts due to Swindon Unitary Authority and arose to fund the salaries paid to certain employees following disputes on equal pay.

Pension Reserve - The defined benefit pension scheme fund represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion back to an Academy. The Academy is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets on conversion represent the value of the building and other assets transferred to the new Academy from the Local Authority.

Fixed assets purchased from restricted funds represents amounts spent on fixed assets from GAG received from the ESFA and other restricted donations.

Fixed assets purchased from ESFA capital grants represents amounts spent on fixed assets from Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding. This is funding received from the ESFA to cover maintenance and the purchase of the academy's assets.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****16 Funds (continued)**

Fixed assets purchased from Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). This is funding from the ESFA to address significant condition need, keeping education provider buildings safe and in good working order. This includes funding projects to address health and safety issues, building compliance and poor building condition.

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Central Services	(212,934)	(17,144)
Eastrop Infant School	139,614	115,043
Southfield Junior School	186,868	220,726
Wroughton Infant School	311,689	230,344
Oakhurst Community Primary School	443,891	-
Wroughton Junior School	<u>542,972</u>	<u>373,299</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,412,100	922,268
Restricted fixed asset funds	11,183,387	8,098,740
Pension reserve	<u>(311,000)</u>	<u>(661,000)</u>
Total	<u><u>12,284,487</u></u>	<u><u>8,360,008</u></u>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2023 £
Central Services	246,839	133,207	22,032	152,253	554,331
Eastrop Infant School	578,069	86,017	55,029	124,599	843,714
Southfield Junior School	750,258	106,607	75,758	171,331	1,103,954
Wroughton Infant School	722,179	148,576	96,686	169,753	1,137,194
Wroughton Junior School	1,081,064	180,032	112,087	186,826	1,560,009
Oakhurst Community Primary School	<u>130,339</u>	<u>22,984</u>	<u>2,326</u>	<u>15,869</u>	<u>171,518</u>
Academy Trust	<u><u>3,508,748</u></u>	<u><u>677,423</u></u>	<u><u>363,918</u></u>	<u><u>820,631</u></u>	<u><u>5,370,720</u></u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2022 £
Central Services	162,349	134,490	14,962	115,763	427,564
Eastrop Infant School	520,058	77,971	8,604	247,388	854,021
Southfield Junior School	625,274	90,613	59,538	281,804	1,057,229
Wroughton Infant School	419,842	68,519	50,265	163,814	702,440
Wroughton Junior School	505,470	93,591	11,757	231,269	842,087
Academy Trust	<u>2,232,993</u>	<u>465,184</u>	<u>145,126</u>	<u>1,040,038</u>	<u>3,883,341</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,161,864	11,161,864
Current assets	963,177	1,376,250	21,523	2,360,950
Current liabilities	-	(927,327)	-	(927,327)
Pension scheme liability	-	(311,000)	-	(311,000)
Total net assets	<u>963,177</u>	<u>137,923</u>	<u>11,183,387</u>	<u>12,284,487</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****17 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,045,708	8,045,708
Current assets	485,837	1,013,244	53,032	1,552,113
Current liabilities	-	(550,106)	-	(550,106)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(26,707)	-	(26,707)
Pension scheme liability	-	(661,000)	-	(661,000)
Total net assets	485,837	(224,569)	8,098,740	8,360,008

18 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	52,679

19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases***Operating leases***

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	-	844

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****20 Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities**

	2023	(As restated) 2022
	£	£
Net income	3,041,479	4,145,145
Depreciation	236,147	165,898
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(206,401)	(208,306)
Interest receivable	(163)	(85)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	503,000	265,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	30,000	22,000
Pension liability transferred on conversion	-	795,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	417,229	(797,089)
Increase in creditors	377,221	314,617
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	-	(4,425,000)
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>4,398,512</u>	<u>277,180</u>

21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	163	85
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(335,789)	(317,451)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	<u>206,401</u>	<u>208,306</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(129,225)</u>	<u>(109,060)</u>

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>1,871,114</u>	<u>645,048</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,871,114</u>	<u>645,048</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****23 Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	645,048	1,226,066	1,871,114
Total	645,048	1,226,066	1,871,114

24 Member liability

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

25 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £69,625 were payable to the schemes at the year end (2022: £42,453) are included within other 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 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 member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £187,125 (2022: £222,639).

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

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

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £368,000 (2022 - £209,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £297,000 (2022 - £194,000) and employees' contributions totalled £71,000 (2022 - £15,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.4 per cent for employers and 5.5 per cent for employees.

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

GROVE LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(CONTINUED)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.50
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.20</u>	<u>4.30</u>

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	21.50	21.70
Females retiring today	24.80	24.20
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	20.60	22.60
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.90</u>	<u>26.00</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	1,802,350	1,311,660
Corporate bonds	950,330	752,990
Property	458,780	364,350
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>65,540</u>	<u>-</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>3,277,000</u>	<u>2,429,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was (£49,155) (2022 - (£99,589)).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	(503,000)	(459,000)
Interest income	112,000	45,000
Interest cost	<u>(142,000)</u>	<u>(67,000)</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(533,000)</u>	<u>(481,000)</u>

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)****25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)****Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:**

	2023	2022
	£	£
At start of period	3,090,000	2,000,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	1,013,000	1,962,000
Current service cost	308,000	459,000
Interest cost	142,000	67,000
Employee contributions	71,000	15,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,026,000)	(2,460,000)
Benefits paid	(10,000)	1,047,000
At 31 August	<u>3,588,000</u>	<u>3,090,000</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
At start of period	2,429,000	1,309,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	521,000	1,167,000
Interest income	112,000	45,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(143,000)	(1,348,000)
Employer contributions	297,000	194,000
Employee contributions	71,000	15,000
Benefits paid	(10,000)	1,047,000
At 31 August	<u>3,277,000</u>	<u>2,429,000</u>

Local government pension schemes**26 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.

During the period the academy was charged £73,105 (2022: £63,767) in relation to catering services from Highworth Warneford School. R James is a trustee at both this academy and Highworth Warneford School.

Other than the above, there were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

27 Events after the end of the reporting period

Since the year end Shaw Ridge Primary School, Millbrook Primary School and Peatmoor Community Primary School will join the trust with an estimated joining date of 1 February 2024.

GROVE LEARNING TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****(CONTINUED)**

28 Academy trust with a newly converted academy

On 1 August 2023 the Oakhurst Community Primary School converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Grove Learning Trust from the Wiltshire County Council Local Authority for £Nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fixed asset fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets			
Freehold land and buildings	-	3,016,514	3,016,514
Budget surplus on LA funds	391,379	-	391,379
Net assets	391,379	3,016,514	3,407,893