

Company Registration No. 07697158 (England and Wales)

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mr M Berry (resigned 31 August 2024)
Ms S McClennon
Mrs L Broadbere
Mrs S Wallis (resigned 31 August 2024)
Mrs E Davidson
Mrs D Favager (appointed 1 September 2024)

Trustees

Mr S Clarke (Accounting Officer)
Mrs E Davidson (Chair from 1 September 2023)
Mrs D Favager (Resigned 4 July 2024)
Mrs L Howe
Dr A Owen
Mr J Young
Mrs A Attard
Mr R Heibel
Ms D Lidgett
Dr V Tamma
Mrs K Shorrock
Mr M Woods
Ms L Towers
Mrs H Clarkson
Fr B Bell
Mr J Akehurst (Appointed 19 September 2024)

Senior management team

- Headteacher	Mr S Clarke
- Deputy Headteacher	Mrs L Begbie
- Senior Assistant Headteacher	Mrs G Ravenwood
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs K Kimber
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs G Fairclough
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs L Marley
- Assistant Headteacher	Miss K Leighton (resigned 31 August 2024)
- Business Manager	Mr A Eckford

Company secretary

Mr A Eckford

Company registration number

07697158 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Graham Road
West Kirby
Wirral
Merseyside
CH48 5DP

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
L2 5RH

Bankers Lloyds Bank plc
137 Telegraph Road
Heswall
Wirral
Merseyside
CH60 0AN

Solicitors Hill Dickinson LLP
No.1 St. Pauls Square
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9SJ

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in Wirral and North Wales. It has a pupil capacity of 1,283 and had a roll of 1,181 in the school census in September 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust herewith referred to as West Kirby Grammar School (WKGS).

The trustees of West Kirby Grammar School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, local governors and officers from claims arising due to negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on school business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

There are currently 15 governors representing various local stakeholders, five elected parent governors from the prevailing parent body, three elected staff governors, five appointed governors (reflecting the skills required of a modern academy as determined by the other governors) and the Headteacher.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Governors undertake an induction programme in line with the school's induction policy for governors including meetings with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher.

Governors are encouraged to attend the training sessions provided by the Local Authority.

Principal activities

The principal activity of West Kirby Grammar School is to provide an outstanding education for all its students whatever their age, ability or social and economic background by maintaining, operating and developing the school and ensuring a broad curriculum and enhancement opportunities are available to challenge, support and motivate students. In setting the school's objectives and planning its activities, Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Admission to this single sex (girls) school is by selection at 11 which is co-ordinated by the Local Authority. Priority admission is given to 'Looked After' children, those with siblings at the school and those who live within the local area.

Applications for places are made in accordance with Wirral's co-ordinated admissions arrangements and the school's Admission Policy. Boys are admitted to the Sixth Form, along with girls who have met the admissions requirements.

The school works to promote a safe and healthy environment in which all students can develop their fullest potential academically, socially and personally and as a result achieve well.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of three levels - the Academy Trust Board (the trustees/governors - all governors are trustees), the Governing body and the Senior Management Team.

The Academy Trust Board (the trustees/governors) is responsible for those statutory duties which may not be delegated to the Governing Body.

The key purposes of the Governing Body are:

- monitoring standards to ensure that teaching and learning is first class
- monitoring the school's financial and academic performance
- developing the strategic policies which reflect the school's vision and ethos
- promoting the school and fostering links with the local community
- ensuring the school functions effectively as a learning community upholding British values

In fulfilling the above purposes, the Governing Body discharges the following responsibilities -

- develop and review the School's Development Plan
- review and monitor the School's financial position on a regular basis and consider any significant contractual matters
- monitor the educational performance of the school in line with outcomes and success criteria
- approve and review the implementation and effectiveness of key operational policies
- monitor the effectiveness of staffing policies including performance management and pay reviews
- participate in marketing and communication with parents and the local and wider communities
- monitor the effective management of the School's site and building
- maintain an overview of the School's risk management procedures
- ensure safeguarding policies, including the Prevent strategy, are upheld

The Senior Management team consists of the Headteacher, one Deputy Headteacher, four Assistant Headteachers and the School's Finance Director. These leaders, manage the school at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governing Body.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

'Key management personnel' is a term used by FRS 102 for those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of a reporting entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise). This definition for WKGS includes the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, four Assistant Headteachers and the School Finance Director. These staff are the senior management personnel to whom the trustees have delegated significant authority or responsibility in the day-to-day running of the academy trust. The setting of pay and remuneration of key personnel is managed by Governors who follow statutory guidance and the School's Pay Policy. This task is delegated to an appointed committee of Governors who carry out the Headteacher's formal appraisal annually. Decisions are then taken to the Full Governing Body to be ratified.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	3
Full-time equivalent employee number	3.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	3
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	6,180,800
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Governing Body works with Wirral Local Authority, the DfE, the ESFA, local primary and secondary schools. Through the Ogden Trust and the Shaping Futures programme it works with Liscard Primary, Eastway Primary, Woodchurch CE Primary, St George's Primary, New Brighton Primary, Greenleas Primary, Mosslands and Weatherhead. The school is a member of the Grammar School Heads' Association.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

At West Kirby Grammar School, we support every student in achieving their potential academically, socially, and personally. Our core objectives are as follows:

To foster an inclusive and high-achieving community

We aim to celebrate successes across all dimensions, with a commitment to high performance for every learner. By maintaining rigorous expectations, offering a rich curriculum, and providing targeted feedback, we encourage students to exceed expectations. Through challenges that extend beyond academics, we inspire students to redefine their aspirations.

To be a reflective, self-improving school

We are dedicated to continuous advancement, empowering skilled leaders at every level to drive forward pedagogical innovation grounded in research. Our reflective practices promote an educational environment enriched by collaboration and a commitment to evidence-informed improvement.

To deliver world-class Sixth Form provision

Our Sixth Form promotes independence, motivation, and confidence in every student. With a curriculum enriched by diverse experiences, we guide students to appreciate the significance of societal contribution and cultivate the skills to lead with purpose and empathy in an ever-evolving world.

To nurture the wellbeing and resilience of our community

We empower both students and staff to take an active role in their own wellbeing, enhancing a supportive and joyful community. Through initiatives that foster resilience and mutual respect, we ensure that every member takes pride in being part of West Kirby Grammar School.

Achievements by Governors this year include:

- Regularly reviewing financial performance against the approved budget
- Assessing initiatives outlined in the School Development Plan (2023-24), focusing on academic provision and student achievement
- Receiving updates on essential aspects of school life, including:
 - Quality of Education
 - Behaviour, Attitudes, and Personal Development
 - Finance
 - Staffing

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Aims for the forthcoming year include:

Continuing to be an inclusive, high-performing community:

We maintain high expectations, striving to be recognised nationally as a top selective school. Through an enriched curriculum, targeted feedback, and holistic challenges, we inspire students to extend their vision of what is achievable.

Strengthening our culture of self-improvement:

By embedding evidence-informed pedagogy and fostering a research-led environment, we enable high-caliber leaders to advance best practices across the school.

Enhancing Sixth Form excellence:

We will continue to provide a secure ethical framework, supporting students in becoming socially responsible global citizens. Through diverse experiences, students gain an understanding of the importance of active societal contribution and pursuing their aspirations.

Fostering wellbeing for all members:

We commit to building resilience within a nurturing environment, promoting mutual respect and pride in belonging to West Kirby Grammar School.

Our approach to achieving these aims will involve:

- Embedding High Performance Learning to support cognitive development and positive behaviours in students
- Highlighting transferable skills across subjects, improving standards in numeracy and literacy
- Introducing tailored support for students, particularly for those eligible for Pupil Premium or from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Upholding consistent expectations, respect, and support within the school community
- Promoting collaboration and idea-sharing across departments
- Expanding student-led initiatives and roles within the school, encouraging ownership in school improvements
- Enhancing personal development programmes to reflect British values and promote comprehensive growth.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. The main activities of the school which constitute the entity as a public benefit is the provision of education.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The year covered by these financial statements reflects the twelfth year for West Kirby Grammar School as an academy. The following paragraphs present a review of the significant achievements during the year in pursuit of furthering its charitable purposes for public benefit.

Systems since converting to an academy are now embedded and working successfully. The finance team, senior management and teachers are all ensuring that high standards of governance are maintained.

The school has once again excelled academically with a Progress 8 score of 0.44 (Category 2 – Above Average) and an Attainment 8 score of 68.24 at GCSE representing significantly above average rates of progress from Year 7 to 11. At A-level, 61% of grades were A*-B, and 80% A*-C.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key performance indicators

The Academy will sustain appropriate staffing levels to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the interests and aspirations of its students. The Academy will sustain strong performance in external examinations and will provide a physical environment that is safe and secure for all.

The external examination results in 2024 were exceptional:

- 100% of students achieved a Standard Pass in GCSE English and Maths with 94% achieving a Strong Pass
- 51% of all grade achieved were at grades 9-7
- 61% of Advanced level results were graded A*-B
- 34% of all Advanced level results were awarded A*-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 the board of trustees 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. The budget for the 2024/25 financial year has been set and agreed by Governors and is expected to give rise to a slight surplus for the year.

Financial review

The financial position of the school is detailed in the following pages.

Most of the school's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Recurrent grants of £7,166k (2023: £6,898k) were received in the form of GAG funding from the ESFA. Expenditure covered by these grants amounted to £7,199k (2023: £6,638k). This grant and expenditure is shown in the restricted general fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Unrestricted income and expenditure in the year amounted to £89k (2023: £113k) and £nil (2023: £nil) respectively.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £10,866k (2023: £11,081k) and movements in fixed assets are shown in Note 12 to the financial statements. The cost of fixed asset additions in the year amounted to £225k of which £11k was for works to the land and buildings, £90k computer equipment and £124k was for fixtures, fittings and equipment.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The objective of the Academy's Risk Management procedure is to identify the principal risks facing the academy so that existing controls may be considered and further action taken if required, including external insurance.

The Board of Trustees has a comprehensive risk management process to identify and monitor the risks faced by the Academy.

The financial risks considered include: economic/ financial uncertainty, liquidity and solvency, credit risk, the risk of fraud and compliance with financial/ statutory requirements.

Reserves policy

Governors review the level of reserves annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees will ensure that the reserves policy continues to conform to the requirements laid down in the Academies' Financial Handbook produced by the ESFA.

It is Governors' policy to build up unrestricted reserves which can be used for future education purposes in line with the academy's development plan.

The school's pension liability is £387k with sufficient assets to cover this figure.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Academy's Reserve Policy annually as part of the Financial Procedures manual review. In addition the appropriate level of working capital should be a minimum of £525,000 to cover one month's staff costs.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Investment policy

Due to the nature of funding, the Academy may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements. The Governors have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates.

Governors are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Finance Director under approvals by the Governing Body.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Governors are responsible for the management of the risks to which the school is exposed and are assisted in this task by the Senior Leadership Team, the school's Health & Safety Officer, Health & Safety consultant and Human Resources advisors from Hill Dickinson LLP and the Local Authority. It has also sought professional advice and support from the Risk Protection Association and Zurich Insurance Group. Operational risks are identified and assessed at school level and these are reviewed by Governors.

The key controls used by Governors include:

- detailed terms of reference for all committees
- formal agendas for all meetings and committee meetings of the Governing Body. Minutes of full Governing Body and committee meetings are reviewed by Governors
- schemes of delegation and formal financial regulations for staff
- formal written policies
- formal review of targets and progress reports clear authorisation and approved levels
- policies and procedures by law to protect the vulnerable.

Risk management procedures have been reviewed during the year and Governors are satisfied that the major risks identified have been reviewed and processes have been established to manage those risks where necessary.

The Estate is proactively managed in-line with Health and Safety Legislation and compliance, ensuring the estate provides a safe learning and working environment for all. The Trust follows the Department for Education guidance 'Good Estate Management for Schools' that contains a number of detailed documents and a self-assessment tool to ensure that the Estate is managed effectively. The Trust also uses external Estates advisors for the development of capital funding bids and to support more complex projects.

The Estate strategy also links with the Capital Expenditure programme and Risk Management / Risk Register, this provides the Trust with the strategic overview of when investment is needed and how its prioritised across the trust. The Trust ring-fences its Reserves in line with the priorities identified, so that future Estates developments can take place.

Pupil numbers and forecast numbers are consistent. Sixth Form numbers have been maintained in 2023-24 and are relatively consistent. Admission numbers are annually reviewed and actions are implemented to maintain and extend recruitment out of area.

Fundraising

The school's students undertake numerous fundraising events for various charities. The two school charities for 2023/24 were Alzheimer's Society and Climbers Against Cancer.

Plans for future periods

The school's plan for future years is to continue to work towards the aims and objectives on pages 6 and 7.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs E Davidson

Chair

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between West Kirby Grammar School and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met four times during the year. Given the structure of sub-committees in place, the trustees are satisfied that the number of full board meetings is sufficient to discharge their responsibilities. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr S Clarke (Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mrs E Davidson (Chair from 1 September 2023)	4	4
Mrs D Favager (Resigned 4 July 2024)	3	4
Mrs L Howe	4	4
Dr A Owen	2	4
Mr J Young	2	4
Mrs A Attard	4	4
Mr R Heibel	4	4
Ms D Lidgett	3	4
Dr V Tamma	2	4
Mrs K Shorrock	1	4
Mr M Woods	1	4
Ms L Towers	4	4
Mrs H Clarkson	4	4
Fr B Bell	3	4
Mr J Akehurst (Appointed 19 September 2024)	0	0

The board of trustees spread its workload by delegating certain functions to committees whose constitution and membership are agreed annually by the board of trustees. Committees are chaired by trustees and have a member of the senior leadership team attached. They meet before full board meetings, or as and when required, to prioritise and focus upon tasks in their areas of Curriculum, Health & Safety/Premises, Pay & Salaries, Staffing, Audit and Finance. Committee meetings have minutes taken to report to the trustees and identify key decisions which have been ratified by the full board of trustees.

Conflicts of interest

Each meeting is preceded by a declaration of interest by each governor in attendance.

We maintain a register of business interests for governors, members and senior leaders which is updated annually and if a declaration is made during the year.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Governance reviews

The Leadership and Management 1 Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the financial administration of the school to ensure efficient and effective use of funds in accordance with current regulations by discussion, review and challenge at its meetings. The academy trusts carry out a review of governance on an annual basis.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr S Clarke (Accounting Officer)	2	2
Mrs L Howe	2	2
Mr J Young	1	2
Mr M Woods	2	2
Ms L Towers	2	2

The audit committee is an advisory body with no executive powers. However, it is authorised by the Governing Body to investigate any activity within its terms of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff, who are requested to co-operate with the Committee in the conduct of its inquiries. Requests for work, and reports received, from the Internal Auditor will be channelled through the Business Manager.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr S Clarke (Accounting Officer)	3	3
Mrs E Davidson (Chair from 1 September 2023)	2	3
Ms L Towers	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Results significantly above national average: In 2023-24 results were as follows:

A level:

- 61% of the grades awarded were graded A* - B
- 34% of all results were awarded A* - A
- 80% of all results were awarded A* - C

GCSE:

- 100% of students achieved a Standard Pass in English and Maths (previous A* - C grade)
- 51% of all grades achieved were at grades 9-7 (previous A* - A)

Again, another impressive year with some outstanding achievements. A review of all results is undertaken with Department Improvement Plans and School Improvement Plans setting targets for the following year.

Targeted Improvement

Targeted groups of students are being supported to achieve their potential. These are pupil premium, SEN, LAC and EAL. Improvement of progress in the Sixth Form is a key whole school priority.

Financial Governance & Oversight

This includes:-

- Monitoring the work of the Finance Director and the work of the external auditor
- Regular reviews by the Finance Committee check expenditure, capital works, forecasts and so on.
- Delegation of authority for separate duties
- Risk management
- Better purchasing - a review of contracts, leases, etc to ensure value for money
- A clear and comprehensive tendering process
- Scrutiny- Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited have been appointed as external auditors
- Review of reserves in the light on budget constraints and the investment of balances
- Curriculum Review

The school reviews the curriculum annually to ensure breadth and balance. Individual learning pathways are supported to ensure students have the opportunity to follow their ambitions in the next phase of their lives.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed Langtons LLP as the internal auditor. The internal audits consisted of a high-level compliance review of the key controls in place in relation to the School's finance function. The consistent application of key controls across the School's main financial processes provides on-going assurance over the financial management of the organisation. On an annual basis the internal auditor reports to the Governing Body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. In particular the key control areas tested in the current period included;

- Policy and procedures
- General ledger
- Expenditure
- Payroll

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees financial responsibilities.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of Langton's LLP as internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;

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 and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr S Clarke
Accounting Officer



Mrs E Davidson
Chair from 1 September 2023

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

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



Mr S Clarke
Accounting Officer

12 December 2024

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of West Kirby Grammar School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs E Davidson
Chair

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of West Kirby Grammar School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the academy's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the board of governors of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters identified having obtained and reviewed the academy's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the academy's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body, along with the Academy Trust Handbook and Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. This includes regulations concerning Data Protection and Safeguarding.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the academy's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the board concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Use of our report

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

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited.

Philip Griffiths (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

12 December 2024

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
L2 5RH

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

Respective responsibilities of West Kirby Grammar School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of West Kirby Grammar School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 July 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the activities to ensure they are in keeping with the charitable objectives and framework.
- Reviewing declarations of interest and seeking further representations.
- Reviewing the control environment and considering potential weaknesses.
- Reviewing minutes of various committees, management accounts and holding discussions with key personnel.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited.

Reporting Accountant

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
L2 5RH

Dated: 12 December 2024

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	12	74	86	79
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	2	7,764	-	7,766	7,391
Other trading activities	5	23	-	-	23	87
Investments	6	64	-	-	64	26
Total		<u>89</u>	<u>7,776</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>7,939</u>	<u>7,583</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	7,761	441	8,202	7,537
Total	7	<u>-</u>	<u>7,761</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>8,202</u>	<u>7,537</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		89	15	(367)	(263)	46
Transfers between funds	16	-	(151)	151	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	5	-	5	636
Net movement in funds		89	(131)	(216)	(258)	682
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		855	355	11,082	12,292	11,610
Total funds carried forward		<u>944</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>10,866</u>	<u>12,034</u>	<u>12,292</u>

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds £'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	79	79
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	7,391	-	7,391
Other trading activities	5	87	-	-	87
Investments	6	26	-	-	26
Total		<u>113</u>	<u>7,391</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>7,583</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	7,160	377	7,537
Total	7	<u>-</u>	<u>7,160</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>7,537</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		113	231	(298)	46
Transfers between funds	16	-	(125)	125	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	636	-	636
Net movement in funds		113	742	(173)	682
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		742	(387)	11,255	11,610
Total funds carried forward		<u>855</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>11,082</u>	<u>12,292</u>

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		10,866		11,081
Current assets					
Debtors	13	255		155	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,899		2,058	
		<u>2,154</u>		<u>2,213</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(599)		(562)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			1,555		1,651
Net assets excluding pension liability			12,421		12,732
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	18		(387)		(440)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total net assets			12,034		12,292
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			10,866		11,082
- Restricted income funds			611		795
- Pension reserve			(387)		(440)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total restricted funds			11,090		11,437
Unrestricted income funds	16		944		855
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total funds			12,034		12,292
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>

The accounts on pages 25 to 47 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs E Davidson
Chair

Company registration number 07697158 (England and Wales)

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19		(72)		351
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		64		26	
Capital grants from DfE Group		27		79	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(178)		(202)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-		(1)	
		-----		-----	
Net cash used in investing activities			(87)		(98)
			-----		-----
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(159)		253
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,058		1,805
			-----		-----
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,899		2,058
			=====		=====

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

West Kirby Grammar School is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

West Kirby Grammar School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the academy trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

1.2 Going concern

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

At the balance sheet date the Academy had net assets of £12m after providing for long term pension scheme commitments of £387k in respect of the support staff defined benefit pension scheme and had net current assets of £1,555k.

The trustees have reviewed and approved budgets and cashflow forecasts for 2024/25 and future years and consider in the light of this review that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,500 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 that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Freehold land and buildings	Nil depreciation on land, 2% straight line on buildings
Computer equipment / IT infrastructure	4% - 50% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% - 50% straight line
Motor vehicles	7% straight line

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the academy becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.9 Taxation

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

Where fixed assets are purchased out of unrestricted or general restricted funds then an amount equivalent to the additions are transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund in the year incurred and shown separately within the SOFA.

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.

1.12 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 24.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees believe that critical areas of judgement do not have a significant risk of causing a material difference to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Donated fixed assets	-	47	47	-
Capital grants	-	27	27	79
Other donations	-	12	12	-
	—	—	—	—
	-	86	86	79
	==	==	==	==

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,166	7,166	6,898
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	72	72	67
- Supplementary Grant	-	285	285	228
- Others	-	166	166	121
	-	7,689	7,689	7,314
Other incoming resources	2	75	77	77
Total funding	2	7,764	7,766	7,391

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	17	-	17	80
Other income	6	-	6	7
	23	-	23	87

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Short term deposits	64	-	64	26

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total	Total
	£'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	5,001	442	400	5,843	5,589
- Allocated support costs	1,341	500	518	2,359	1,949
	<u>6,342</u>	<u>942</u>	<u>918</u>	<u>8,202</u>	<u>7,538</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Operating lease rentals	11	33
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	364	352
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	77	26
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	12	12
- Other services	4	4
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	18	41
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8 Charitable activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	5,843	5,589
Support costs		
Educational operations	2,359	1,949
	<u>8,202</u>	<u>7,538</u>

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,341	1,112
Technology costs	47	48
Premises costs	500	442
Other support costs	454	325
Governance costs	17	22
	<u>2,359</u>	<u>1,949</u>

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	4,649	4,309
Social security costs	470	438
Pension costs	1,062	989
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Staff costs - employees	6,181	5,736
Agency staff costs	161	196
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	6,342	5,932
Staff development and other staff costs	34	34
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total staff expenditure	<u><u>6,376</u></u>	<u><u>5,966</u></u>

Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	74	75
Administration and support	46	46
Management	6	6
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	126	127
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	4	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5 of the above participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (2023: 2), and 1 employees in each year participated in the LGPS. During the year ended 31 August 2023, pension contributions for the above amounted to £112,006 (2023: £56,907).

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 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) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £768,702 (2023: £677,585).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

S Clarke (Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration - £110,001 - £115,000 (2023: £100,001 - £105,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid - £25,001 - £30,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

J P Young (staff governor and trustee):

Remuneration - £50,001 - £55,000 (2023: £40,001 - £45,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid - £10,001 - £15,000 (2023: £10,001 - £15,000)

R Heibel (staff governor and trustee):

Remuneration - £35,001 - £40,000 (2023: £30,001 - £35,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid - £5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £5,001 - £10,000)

D Lidgett (staff governor and trustee):

Remuneration - £35,001 - £40,000 (2023: £30,001 - £35,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid - £5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £5,001 - £10,000)

M Woods (staff governor and trustee):

Remuneration - £55,001 - £60,000 (2023: £35,001 - £40,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid - £10,001 - £15,000 (2023: £10,001 - £15,000)

D Favager (staff governor and trustee):

Remuneration - £0 - £5,000 (2022: £0 - £5,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £nil (2023: nil)

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust 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.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Computer equipment / IT infrastructure	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	13,552	821	437	30	14,840
Additions	11	90	124	-	225
Disposals	(61)	(18)	(23)	-	(102)
At 31 August 2024	13,502	893	538	30	14,963
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	2,715	666	374	4	3,759
On disposals	-	(13)	(12)	-	(25)
Charge for the year	281	55	25	2	363
At 31 August 2024	2,996	708	387	6	4,097
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	10,506	185	151	24	10,866
At 31 August 2023	10,837	155	63	26	11,081

The land and buildings transferred on conversion were independently professionally valued as at 1 August 2011 by Mason Owen Chartered Surveyors and were included in the financial statements at this valuation on conversion to academy status.

Included within freehold land and buildings is land valued at £1,000,000.

13 Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	-	7
VAT recoverable	65	44
Prepayments and accrued income	190	104
	255	155

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	79	96
Other taxation and social security	139	135
Other creditors	133	124
Accruals and deferred income	248	207
	<u>599</u>	<u>562</u>

15 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	159	129
	<u>159</u>	<u>129</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	129	104
Released from previous years	(129)	(104)
Resources deferred in the year	159	129
	<u>159</u>	<u>129</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>159</u>	<u>129</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for school trips £117k (2023: £79k), Prizes fund £4k (2023: £7k), STEMNET income £4k (2023: £4k), income for astroturf rejuvenation £30k (2023: £30k) and school fund £4k (2023: £9k).

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	795	7,166	(7,199)	(151)	611
Pupil premium	-	72	(72)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	451	(451)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	87	(87)	-	-
Pension reserve	(440)	-	48	5	(387)
	<u>355</u>	<u>7,776</u>	<u>(7,761)</u>	<u>(146)</u>	<u>224</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,762	-	(178)	-	7,584
DfE group capital grants	2,184	27	(107)	-	2,104
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,136	-	(156)	151	1,131
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	47	-	-	47
	<u>11,082</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>(441)</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>10,866</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>11,437</u>	<u>7,850</u>	<u>(8,202)</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11,090</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	855	89	-	-	944
	<u>855</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>944</u>
Total funds	<u>12,292</u>	<u>7,939</u>	<u>(8,202)</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12,034</u>

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the free school was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward.

A total of £151k of restricted funds have been transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund, relating to assets purchased during the year from general GAG funding.

Other ESFA grants. These have been received for specific purposes throughout the year and include pupil premium, teachers' pension, teachers' pay and SEN grants which were fully spent in the year.

EFA Capital Grant for the building renovation and infrastructure. Depreciation of assets capitalised is to be matched against this income in line with accounting policy.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	660	6,898	(6,638)	(125)	795
Pupil premium	-	67	(67)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	121	(106)	-	15
Supplementary Grant	-	228	(228)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	77	(92)	-	(15)
Pension reserve	(1,047)	-	(29)	636	(440)
	<u>(387)</u>	<u>7,391</u>	<u>(7,160)</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>355</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,940	-	(178)	-	7,762
DfE group capital grants	2,205	79	(100)	-	2,184
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,110	-	(99)	125	1,136
	<u>11,255</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>(377)</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>11,082</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>10,868</u>	<u>7,470</u>	<u>(7,537)</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>11,437</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>742</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>855</u>
Total funds	<u>11,610</u>	<u>7,583</u>	<u>(7,537)</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>12,292</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,866	10,866
Current assets	944	1,210	-	2,154
Current liabilities	-	(599)	-	(599)
Pension scheme liability	-	(387)	-	(387)
Total net assets	<u>944</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>10,866</u>	<u>12,034</u>

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,081	11,081
Current assets	855	1,358	-	2,213
Current liabilities	-	(563)	1	(562)
Pension scheme liability	-	(440)	-	(440)
Total net assets	855	355	11,082	12,292

18 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 Wirral Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £131,761 (TPS £110,992 LGPS £20,769) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £114,602 (TPS £93,272 LGPS £21,330) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

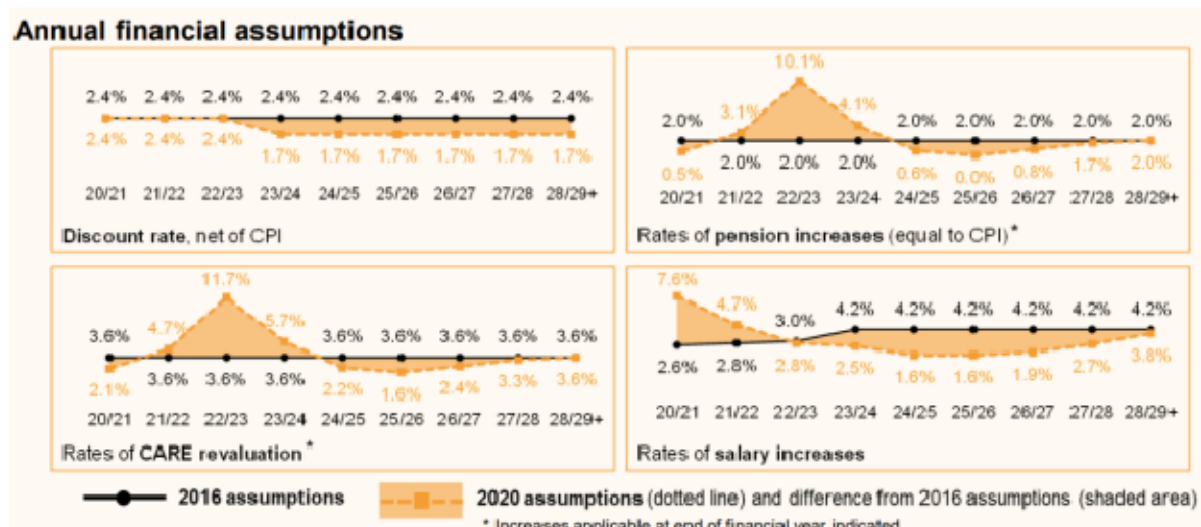
(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023.

The 31 March 2020 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 April 2024. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge) – this is an increase of 5% of pensionable pay from the contribution rates paid since 1 September 2019
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The other HM Treasury Directed Assumptions are shown in the table below:



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, has been implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £900,605 (2023: £795,230).

A copy of the latest valuation report can be found by following the link to the Teachers' Pension Scheme 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.

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The employer contribution rate is 19.0% until 31 March 2026. The employee contribution rates start at 5.5% increasing to 12.5% depending on earnings.

As the scheme is in deficit the academy trust has entered into an agreement with the scheme trustees to make additional contributions of £45,100 per year in 2023/24 in addition to normal funding levels. These additional contributions are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

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

Total contributions made	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Employer's contributions	224	200
Employees' contributions	57	50
	—	—
Total contributions	281	250
	====	====

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

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.8	20.8
- Females	23.4	23.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.0	22.1
- Females	25.1	25.1
	====	====

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	-63	-56
Discount rate - 0.1%	64	57
Mortality assumption + 1 year	94	82
Mortality assumption - 1 year	-92	-80
CPI rate + 0.1%	64	57
CPI rate - 0.1%	-63	-56
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

	2024	2023
	Fair value	Fair value
	£'000	£'000
Equities	1,975	1,711
Government bonds	178	188
Other bonds	63	59
Cash	56	36
Property	420	395
Other assets	1,021	901
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total market value of assets	3,713	3,290
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £286,000 (2023: £303,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	153	184
Interest income	(181)	(126)
Interest cost	199	167
Administration expenses	5	4
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total operating charge	176	229
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2024	
		£'000	
At 1 September 2023		3,730	
Current service cost		153	
Interest cost		199	
Employee contributions		57	
Actuarial loss/(gain)		100	
Benefits paid		(139)	

At 31 August 2024		4,100	
		=====	
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2024	
		£'000	
At 1 September 2023		3,290	
Interest income		181	
Actuarial gain		105	
Employer contributions		224	
Employee contributions		57	
Benefits paid		(139)	
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses		(5)	

At 31 August 2024		3,713	
		=====	
19 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		2024	2023
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(263)	46
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(74)	(79)
Investment income receivable	6	(64)	(26)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	(66)	(12)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	18	18	41
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		363	352
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		77	26
(Increase) in debtors		(100)	(9)
Increase in creditors		37	12
		-----	-----
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(72)	351
		=====	=====

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
Cash	2,058	(159)	1,899

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	11	11
Amounts due in two and five years	31	43
	<u>42</u>	<u>54</u>

22 Related party transactions

The following related party transaction took place in the period of account. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During the year Deborah Favager, a Community Governor received an amount of £920 (2023: £493) for services undertaken for the presentation of appeals for the school and consultancy services.

- The trust made this transaction at arms' length.
- In entering into the transaction the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2023.

During the year the school rented St. Andrew's Parish Church for Christmas events in December 2023 paying an amount of £420, (2023: £400) the Father Brian Bell is the Vicar at the Church and is also a Trustee of the Trust.

23 Members' liability

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

24 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust administers the disbursement of the new discretionary support for learners, 16-19 Bursary Funds, on behalf of the ESFA. In the year the Academy received £26,424 (2023: £16,608) and disbursed £21,466 (2023: £13,825) with an amount of £7,706 (2023: £10,538) included within other creditors as at 31 August 2024.