

Company Registration Number: 07973980 (England & Wales)

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	J Cushion (Chair of SEN Trust Southend) C Moss F Colwell S O'Ryan
Trustees	J Oliver, (Chair of Trustees) J Mullan, (Accounting Officer) B Levitt K Duddridge N Hyde T Robinson A Grellier J Argles J Le Masurier
Company registered number	07973980
Company name	SEN Trust Southend
Principal and registered office	The St Christopher School Mountdale Gardens Leigh-On-Sea Essex SS9 4AW
Company secretary	H Grimwade (resigned 5 September 2023) K Haywood (appointed 5 September 2023; resigned 31 March 2024) N Garrett (appointed 2 September 2024)
Chief executive officer	J Mullan
Senior management team	J Mullan, Chief Executive Officer SEN Trust Southend D Fuke, Chief Finance Officer SEN Trust Southend D Woodman, Headteacher St. Christopher School L Robinson, Headteacher Kingsdown School (to 31 August 2024) L Stroud, Headteacher Kingsdown School (from 1 September 2024) L Fox, Headteacher St. Nicholas School T Jackson-Owens, Headteacher Lancaster School
Independent auditors	MWS Chartered Accountants Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor Kingsridge House 601 London Road Westcliff-On-Sea Essex SS0 9PE
Bankers	LLoyds 77 High Street Southend-On-Sea Essex SS1 1HT

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

SEN Trust Southend comprises 4 special academies:

The St. Christopher School – capacity for 235 students from Reception to Post 16; actual pupils on roll during the year = 256

Lancaster School – capacity for 100 students from Key Stage 4 to Post 16; actual pupils on roll during the year = 131

Kingsdown School – capacity for 120 students from nursery to Key Stage 3; actual pupils on roll during the year = 128

St. Nicholas School – capacity for 92 students in secondary for Key Stage 3 and 4; actual pupils on roll during the year = 98

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Academy trust.

The Trustees of SEN Trust Southend are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company operates as SEN Trust Southend.

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.

b. 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.

c. Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, each academy has purchased insurance to protect the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The premium for this insurance is included within each academy trust's general insurance premium and is not separately identifiable.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The number of members and trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum. The multi academy trust shall have the following (details have been extracted from the articles of association):

- a) Up to 9 trustees, appointed under Article 50
- b) The academy trust may also have any co-opted trustee appointed under Article 58
- c) The first trustees shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006
- d) Future trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under the articles of association
- e) The members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 9 trustees and
- f) The total number of trustees (including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act as trustee under Article 57) who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of trustees

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All trustees are expected to undertake training as appropriate to their work at the trust. New trustees will be provided with an induction programme as required. Trustee training is reviewed on a regular basis at meetings. The Trust has subscribed to a package of courses provided by the National Governors Association. Trustees are regularly informed of the academies' progress and activities and welcomed to attend events or visit.

f. Organisational structure

The trustees are responsible for the general policies of the multi academy trust and the day to day running of each school is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Headteacher and the remainder of the Senior Management Team. The day to day administration is conducted in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the local governors with only significant matters being referred to trustees for prior approval.

The Chief Executive Officer undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions in consultation with the other Headteachers and members of their Senior Management Team. The Chief Executive Officer is an ex-officio trustee and the Principal Accounting Officer and therefore attends all meetings. The Chief Financial Officer is invited to attend trustee meetings as appropriate.

Up to 31 August 2024 the Multi Academy Trust had the following organisational structure:

Level 1	MAT Members
Level 2	MAT Trustees
Level 3	MAT Audit & Risk Committee
	MAT Curriculum and Standards Committee
Level 4	Local Governing Body
Level 5	Sub-committees of the Local Governing Body
Level 6	Chief Executive Officer / Accounting Officer
Level 7	Senior Management Team

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All personnel at each school have a set pay scale with a number of points, reaching a maximum. Local Government employees have a review in April. School teaching staff have a review in September. Each school complies with the Trust Pay Policy which is in line with local and national guidelines.

All staff have performance management objectives which they discuss with their performance team leader. The team leaders then make a recommendation to the personnel / staffing committee of the local governing body which then makes a decision whether to endorse the recommendations or not.

The exceptions are the Chief Executive Officer and Headteacher. Headteachers have performance targets set between the Chief Executive Officer and local governing body. These are then reviewed throughout the year with a final performance review during the Autumn term. All recommendations for pay increases are subject to the maximum for the job description and pay range of the post. The Chief Executive Officer has targets set by the trustees or appointed sub set of trustees. These are again reviewed by the trustees and subject to decisions within the pay range set for the level of post.

h. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

There are a number of forums for staff across the schools to engage as well as regular meetings of different groups of staff within schools. The Headteachers' of all schools meet regularly and discuss aspects of practice and issues affecting all the schools.

All four schools work with an external HR provider who is helping to identify areas of common practice across the Multi Academy Trust including updating a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters.

In accordance with the academy's equal opportunities policy, the academy has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

i. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy

As a Multi Academy Trust we engage positively with all stakeholders, including suppliers, professionals, and external agencies. Principal decision making is effected by the level of engagement with stakeholders as many views need to be taken into account and considered. This happens at school level on a day to day basis and also by Trustees who are strategically focussed. Values, vision, aims and objectives contribute to the trusts long-term success as well as corporate social responsibility.

We work closely with parents and other charitable organisations who sometimes engage with schools to provide funds for specific projects and each school also works closely with community projects, including pupil led fundraising for specific activities (Children in Need, Guide Dogs for the Blind, HARP and Mind). These projects help pupils, parents and the community understand the purpose of charitable causes and families can then appreciate when donations are made to the schools.

j. Trade union facility time

There are no staff within the Multi Academy Trust in this category.

Objectives and activities

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

a. Objects and aims

The Multi Academy Trust's objectives are specifically restricted to the following:

- a. to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school specially organised to make special education provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academy"); and
- b. to promote for the benefit of individuals living in South East Essex and the surrounding area who have need by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time activities in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said individuals.

The principal objective and activity of the Multi Academy Trust is to provide education to pupils with complex Special Educational Needs and who have or are in the process of obtaining an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)

The aims of SEN Trust Southend as outlined in the MAT Development Plan are:

- a. to create an outstanding community of schools working collaboratively across Southend and South East Essex to enable pupils with Special Educational Needs to achieve their best and to enable them to move on to independence, making the most of their abilities;
- b. to be able to share expertise, resources and training across the schools whilst maintaining the individual ethos, status and character of the individual school;
- c. to provide a source of training, expertise and support for mainstream schools to enable the great majority of pupils with Special Educational Needs to remain in mainstream provision, where appropriate, with the correct support; and
- d. to work within our community to ensure our young people are included, accepted and are part of the life of Southend / South East Essex.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

SEN Trust Southend is a specialist MAT consisting of four special schools who meet the specialist placement of children/young people who have a full Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) across Southend and the surrounding local areas of Essex. Between the four schools, we worked with 613 pupils placed with us during 23/24. The pupils in our schools have a range of special needs which means they are unable to access mainstream school provision. These pupils often have challenging behaviours associated with their educational needs.

There is a yearly MAT development plan which sets out the strategic direction for the overall MAT. This is then broken down into individual targets, responsibilities, success criteria, and expected impact upon pupil progress and then reviewed each term and reported to the Trustees.

The main priority for the year was to provide an outstanding education for the growing number of pupils the Trust was being asked to accommodate in increasingly limited accommodation. The final school in the Trust was inspected by Ofsted early in September 2023. All schools continue to provide at least 'good' standard of education with many 'Outstanding' aspects. Kingsdown school were to expect a re-visit from Ofsted as they were considered that they 'might be Outstanding' by Ofsted. This did not happen during the school year 2023/24.

The overall challenges and priorities for 2023/2024 were as follows:

- Recruit a new Headteacher for Kingsdown school due to planned and notified retirement of current Headteacher
- Obtain support and decisions as to building plans and projects across all four schools.
- Obtain support and planning from ESFA regarding the future of building/re-building of Kingsdown school, due to the RAAC after mitigation works made the school safe.
- Obtain funding for the building projects and size of schools due to increased need.
- Working with senior officers of the LA regarding future places and building adaptations which need to take place to manage the increase demand for places.
- Continue to develop aspects of all school practices, working closer together as a MAT.

c. Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

d. Benefits and Beneficiaries

In accordance with its charitable objectives, the charitable company strives to advance the education and life chances of students attending the four individual schools. The charitable companies primary beneficiaries are therefore the students and benefits to students are provided through continuing to maintain a high standard of education throughout all the four schools.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

a. Key performance indicators

The main achievement for the Trust this year was coping with the continued and increasing pressure of the need to place pupils in the schools. The demand for special school places has continued to rise rapidly over the year leading to all schools being over their agreed PAN during the year. Places for pupils from the early years and nursery were in great demand, but unable to be met due to the numbers of pupils at statutory school age. This has led to increasing use of the "SEN Tribunal system" at the Royal Courts of Justice by parents. These then 'direct' schools to take pupils which is a national issue causing special schools a lot of difficulties in meeting the needs of increasing class sizes with no additional space. There has been continued and on-going discussion with the LA Director of Education. This has been a cyclical discussion which is on-going.

One of the school's, The St. Christopher School was visited by Ofsted in April 2024. The school achieved 'Outstanding' in 4/5 areas, but as the judgement was 'Good' for Quality of Education then the overall grade therefore came out as 'Good'. This overall judgement has now been removed from the inspection framework and anew framework was introduced in September 2024.

Kingsdown school had the greatest challenges due to the level of RAAC across the school and the need to close major parts of the school, whilst work to place to make it safe. Central Government agreed to fund all the works, but this led to considerable disruption and difficulties throughout the year. Some classes were taught in the local primary school next door and specialist areas were out of use for the whole year. With a lot of accommodation, all pupils were able to attend school full time whilst all the works went on around them. The final part of the RAAC is the school swimming pool which has been out of action of over a year. As at the year end, the DfE has confirmed that Kingsdown is part of phase two of the schools rebuilding programme, however a timeframe has not yet been provided. Following a successful recruitment process, the deputy head was appointed head teacher as at the 1st September 2024.

Each school sets its own strategic development plan in line with a central MAT development plan. A new CFO was appointed, in July 2023 to help move the Trust forward with independent financial controls and advice to Trustees and all four school finance officers This has led to more centralized accounting and the movement away from LA payroll services. It has created a more formalized and professional outlook on funding and created savings in some areas. However, not all services, such as the payroll provider chosen have been beneficial and has required continuous monitoring due to the number of mistakes made and also a new provider to be found for April 2025. A new Governance professional was also appointed in September 2023. Unfortunately, he left the Trusts' employment half way through the year which led to us having to recruit another Governance professional who started in September 2024.

The nature of the SEN's of all the pupils in the schools is becoming more complex and wider ranging and so each school is having to adapt considerably to meet these needs. Presentations to the curriculum committee have taken place as well as visits to each school. Questions were asked and clarification and challenge to each Head Teacher and Senior leadership team were discussed at each meeting. This will be on-going at each meeting.

Performance targets for individual pupils and schools need to be made at individual levels. All pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan, (EHCP) which sets out the targets for them These are reviewed annually with parents/carers, teachers and sometimes the LA officers.

All schools set their own overall targets/ areas for development, which are also scrutinized by the Local Governing Bodies and then the Trustees.

Each Headteacher has performance management objectives set in agreement with the Head Teacher, the CEO and Local Governors. These are agreed and reviewed annually and recommendations for pay performance levels are given based on these discussions.

The schools in the MAT are in a time of change and by September 2025 there are now much more solid plans

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

for changing the age ranges in each school, the numbers of pupils they are able to educate and the building to properly meet the changing needs of the pupils attending them. The application process has been commenced for additional teaching space at two of the schools. A major contribution to building works has been obtained from the local authority.

The trustees, specifically the audit and risk committee, work with the finance officers to ensure there are regular reviews and consistent reports to monitor significant aspects of the Multi Academy Trust's financial operations. All external ESFA returns have been submitted on time. In particular, the activities of the respite centre at The St. Christopher School are monitored to ensure that funding for educational purposes is not used for the provision of respite services. We have segregated the accounts and finances even more clearly this year.

The trustees consider the following to be the key performance indicators:

	Year ended 31/08/2024	Year ended 31/08/2023
Staff costs as a proportion of grant income		
Teaching and educational support staff	80.4%	80.9%
Administrative and support staff	8.9%	9.1%
Total	89.3%	90.0%
 Staff costs per pupil	 £22,612	 £21,066

Please note that the effects of the LGPS pension valuations on staff costs have been ignored in the calculations above.

Staff costs are considerably higher in special schools due to the need for specialist support for pupils.

Overall attendance at the schools during 2023/24 was as follows:

	2024	2023
The St. Christopher School	92.2%	91.3%
Kingsdown School	88.1%	89.5%
Lancaster School	87.5%	87.7%
St. Nicholas School	85.9%	84.4%
MAT average	88.4%	88.2%

Attendance continue to be lower in special schools due to the ongoing health concerns and the more complex nature of pupils attending special provision.

The main focus of the year was to ensure the quality of education provided was the best and reflected in our work with others and recognized by Ofsted. At the year end, all four schools are graded as "good" overall with all of them have many areas of "outstanding" practice. There have been significant changes in personnel across the Trust which has led to new impetus and willingness to work together for the good of all the pupils. There have been a number of new initiatives where schools are working together more cooperatively.

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. 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. The Board of Trustees have reviewed and interrogated the three-year budgets as at the year end and are happy that there are sufficient reserves and plans in place to ensure that the school operates on the going concern basis. The budgets are reviewed and amended on a regular basis.

For these reasons they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

c. Promoting the success of the company

SEN Trust Southend will always promote the success of each academy and fully comply with section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006. Appropriate financial controls are in place which allow each academy to manage resources responsibly and to the benefits of all the pupils in place. To safeguard the success of each academy, appropriate advice is actively sought when needed, which allows the trust to operate with reasonable care and skill. The success of each school within the MAT is measured by Ofsted grading and parental and community perception. All schools continue to be graded either Good or Outstanding. All schools are over-subscribed due to parental perception of the success of the pupil's within the schools. We have positive relations with other companies and payments are made promptly and on time. We have an overall MAT website which sets out the aims and procedures for all the schools as well as individual academy websites which promote and make clear the individual aims and objectives of each school.

Financial review

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

Strategic report (continued)

a. Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Multi Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures via the monthly reports from the Chief Financial Officer. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose.

The trustees deem it necessary to hold three months expenditure £3,880,000 (2023: £3,676,000) as reserves in order to meet any short-term funding issues. This provides a healthy buffer to ensure the schools can continue operating if there were any funding issues with the DfE or Local Government. It also ensures that there are enough cash reserves to operating during the peaks and troughs of funding along with delays in funding.

The total funds held at the balance sheet date was: £40,210,009

The restricted reserves were: £3,154,716

The unrestricted reserves were £3,393,985

Of these funds, there were designated funds of £2,650,000, including the following:

- Redevelopment of current buildings across the MAT to reestablish special needs areas and better adapt the schools to the changes in needs of our pupils £1,750,000
- Fit out the new classrooms £500,000
- Improve schools energy efficiency £400,000

At the balance sheet date, the amount of restricted and unrestricted reserves, excluding designated reserves, was £3,898,701, which meets the Trustee requirements to hold 3 months expenditure.

Any surplus funds are not held to meet normal recurring expenditure, however they would be used in emergencies and for planned expansion of the Trust. It is used to maximise opportunities for large scale projects over a period of time which are not funded by the day-to-day funds allocated to meet the needs of the pupils within the year.

At 31 August 2024 the surplus of the LGPS pension scheme was £1,979,000 (2023: £844,000) although the surplus has not been recognised as there are no indications that future contributions will reduce, or that the scheme will refund contributions already made. See note 28 for further explanation.

b. Investment policy

The aim of the investment policy is to ensure funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested to maximise its income but with minimal risk. The aim is to research where funds may be deposited applying prudence in ensuring there is minimum risk. The trustees do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as good stewardship as and when circumstances allow.

During the period, the trust invested cash into a number of high interest easy access and 3 month deposit accounts, during the period, the trust earned £64,972 (2023 - £1,860) in interest. This was in line with our investment objectives.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees maintain a risk register which is a living document, regularly reviewed and updated. Risks are allocated a degree of severity of impact based on level of risk and likelihood of an event occurring.

The trustees have identified the following key risks to SEN Trust Southend:

- a) The greatest risk to the MAT is the RAAC situation at Kingsdown school which was only identified towards the end of the school year 2022/2023. There is significant RAAC and has resulted in the closure of large parts of the school building. Although central Government, through the Department of Education, have stated they will fully fund the replacement of RAAC buildings, it is a long process and is still undergoing considerable 'consideration' out of our control.
- b) A drop in student numbers would result in lower funding levels and possibly unviable class groups. The Local Authority controls admissions to the four academies and a reduction in referrals could have an impact on funding. At present, demand for places across the trusts remains high and all but one school is oversubscribed. The only school not oversubscribed is only by 1 place.
- c) Place funding continues to be a principal risk for each school. For those schools within the Trust who are oversubscribed the additional pupils are not funded fully and have to be managed within the overall funding stream. The amount of place funding per pupil has not changed for many years.
- d) Fluctuations in government funding and grants being withdrawn needs to be monitored closely for any potential financial impacts.
- e) The pupil-staff ratio is much higher in a special school. Fluctuations in the Local Government pension scheme, the teachers pension scheme and increases to both living and minimum wage have major financial implications for each school.
- f) The changes in national pay levels are maintained but not often fully funded- i.e. teachers' pay award was only part funded by central Government grants and so schools have to find the additional costs. The higher level of staffing needed for special schools, is therefore a higher risk to find these additional funds.

Fundraising

Each school raises independent school funds to pay for specific projects or additional activities. These funds are raised through partnerships with parents/carers and do not involve any professional fundraising companies or individuals. They are often through locality groups and other organisations who are aiming to support those with SENs in general or who have a relative attending the school. We have not had any complaints about fundraising activities. We do not specifically 'elicit' funds from external groups, but apply for grants from those who support young people with SENs.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

The Trust is pleased to report its current UK based annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019.

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

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)

The Academy's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,117,599	<i>2,328,284</i>
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh):		
Gas	1,263,445	<i>1,317,551</i>
Electricity	772,688	<i>926,921</i>
Transport fuel	81,465	<i>84,422</i>
Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Gas consumption	231.1	<i>241.0</i>
School minibuses	20.7	<i>18.9</i>
Total scope 1	251.8	<i>259.9</i>
Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Purchased electricity	160.0	<i>191.8</i>
Scope 3 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Employee owned vehicles where Trust purchases the fuel	1.2	<i>1.6</i>
Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):	413.0	<i>453.3</i>
Intensity ratio:		
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	0.780	<i>0.789</i>

Intensity ratios are also reported showing emissions per square meter floor area at 0.034 (2023: 0.036) tonnes of CO2 per square meter floor area.

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those assets owned or operated within the UK only as defined by the operational control boundary. This includes all four schools controlled during the reporting period and minibuses along with the mandatory inclusion of scope 3 business travel in employee-owned or hire vehicles (grey fleet).

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1 September to 31 August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2023 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been prepared independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The electricity, gas and minibus diesel consumption were compiled from invoice records. Within the minibus fuel consumption data, 6L of petrol was classed as immaterial to accurately align with the previous report. Where

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)

data was missing or needing aligned to the reporting period, the pro-rata estimation technique was applied. Mileage claims were used to calculate energy use and emissions associated with grey fleet. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Intensity ratio

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2022 Census. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

The Trust in this current reporting year has implemented the following energy efficiency actions:

- At Lancaster School, two boilers have been replaced in the pool house with new and more efficient models. Newer boilers operate at over 90% efficiency compared to older models, which often operate around 60-70%. More efficient boilers use less fuel consumption which contributes to lower carbon being emitted.
- Both, St Christopher & St Nicholas School have benefited from LED lighting. LEDs use up to 80-90% less energy than traditional bulbs which means you can expect a significant reduction in electricity consumption.

The Trust remains committed to reducing its carbon footprint and continues to look out for new energy saving and funding opportunities going forwards.

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

Plans for future periods

Plans for future periods include the upgrading of the buildings of all the schools:

- changes to the buildings and infrastructure to meet the change in SENs of cohorts
- changes to vehicles in line with modernisation and removal of restrictions on drivers
- new management structures in line with the growth of school numbers
- increasing capacity across the MAT
- managing the school estates to ensure all are safe for the education of children including mitigation against RAAC

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding source for the trust is the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), an agency of the Department for Education.

The majority of this funding is in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes. As such, grants received from the ESFA and any associated expenditure are included within the restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust also received grants from the ESFA to be used for capital purposes. These amounts are included within the restricted fixed assets funds and any associated expenditure if capitalised in the balance sheet and is presented as fixed assets. The restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by an appropriate depreciation charge calculated in accordance with the Multi Academy Trust's accounting policies.

Other sources of funding are 'unrestricted' and are mainly monies collected from parents/carers for student trips, monies gifted by individuals with an association to a school and income from lettings.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Jane Oliver

J Oliver
Chair of Trustees

Mrs J Mullan

J Mullan
Accounting Officer

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that SEN Trust Southend 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 Chief Executive Officer, 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 SEN Trust Southend and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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 3 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Oliver, (Chair of Trustees)	3	3
J Mullan, (Accounting Officer)	3	3
B Levitt	3	3
K Duddridge	3	3
N Hyde	3	3
T Robinson	2	3
A Grellier	3	3
J Argles	3	3
J Le Masurier	3	3

Although the Board of Trustees met fewer than six times during the year, they were provided with financial reports on a monthly basis and are in regular contact with the schools. The Trustees met three times to discharge their responsibilities and ensure robust governance and effective financial management. In addition, the audit and risk committee met four times, separately to the full trustee board, where full financial challenge was given and minuted.

SEN Trust Southend ensures that annual declarations of business, pecuniary and personal interests are made by all Members, Trustees and Local Governors, and detail is added to Registers that are published on the Trust website (Members and Trustees) and the School websites (Local Governors). Additionally, there is a standing agenda item at every board and committee meetings for all attendees to declare any conflict of interest in any agenda item. Any such declaration is minuted and the member asked to leave the meeting when the relevant item is discussed.

All trustees are provided with monthly reports outlining financial activities undertaken across the MAT which allows them to maintain effective oversight of funds. Each school within the trust also works with an active Local Governing Body which underpins robust governance and effective management arrangements.

The Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- oversee the finances of the schools in the trust and ensure that the funds are used to the intended purpose
- to oversee the financial regulations compliance for each academy
- to ensure finance, trust procedures and reporting requirements are followed
- to act on any concerns raised by the external finance quality assurance reviews which that Trust has asked for
- to scrutinize and recommend the Trust annual budget to the full Trust board
- to ratify academy individual budgets produced by each Local Governing Body to ensure they are in line with Trust policies and are planned for in-year balances
- to receive regular reports from the CFO, raising any queries or concerns of material interest
- review any investments in line with the financial regulations

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
N Hyde (Chair)	4	4
J Mullan (advisory capacity)	4	4
B Levitt	4	4
K Duddridge	4	4

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Governance Review

Governance has been reviewed internally and at all levels. Trustees attend local and national updates where possible. Individual schools have conducted internal reviews and we have managed to recruit new governors to schools this year. Each year the Trustees review the skills they bring to the Trust and any areas where improvements can be made. Next year a full skills audit of the trustee board will be completed.

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by continually challenging and reviewing purchases.

The employment of a part time specialist Chief Finance Officer, from outside the schools, has continued to utilise his skills and knowledge and instigated a process of looking at better value for some contracts and way of consolidating funds to enable the Trust to make better use of its cash flow for interest bearing accounts.

There are regular reviews and discussions as to the effectiveness of various contracts and companies used to deliver services. This helps ensure value for money and ensure the trust's estate is safe, well-maintained and complies with regulations. Due to the differing needs of the pupils attending each school it is not always possible for the same provider to work across the four schools. We centrally employ specialists under contract for specific services such as Educational psychologist services, when we know they are more efficient and meet our needs. These are not necessarily LA based.

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 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 SEN Trust Southend for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy 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's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- regular reviews by the audit and risk committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecast and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ SBM Financial Services as internal auditor.

They were tasked with the duty of internal scrutiny. They carried out audits of all four schools over the spring and summer terms.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 included:

- Financial administration
- Income
- Payroll
- Purchasing and creditors
- Bank and cash
- Budget

On a semi-annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees financial responsibilities outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendation and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the finance managers within each academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

Conclusion

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Jane Oliver

J Oliver
Chair of Trustees

Mrs J Mullan

J Mullan
Accounting Officer

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of SEN Trust Southend I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy 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 received by the Academy, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy 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 Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2023.

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

Mrs J Mullan

J Mullan
Accounting Officer
Date: 17 December 2024

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Jane Oliver

J Oliver
Chair of Trustees

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SEN TRUST SOUTHEND

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SEN TRUST SOUTHEND (CONTINUED)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SEN TRUST SOUTHEND (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Academy Trust and the industry in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant:

The Companies Act 2006, Safeguarding (including statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education), employment law and public sector pay and conditions. We enquired of management to obtain an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and whether they had any knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. We corroborated the results of our enquiries through our review of the board minutes for the year. We did not identify any matters relating to material non compliance with laws and regulation or matters in relation to fraud;

- We obtained an understanding of how the Company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures;
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of the Company's operations, including its objectives and strategies to understand the expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement;
- In assessing the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, the engagement partner considered the engagement team's:
 - understanding of, and practical experience with, audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
 - the specialist skills required and
 - knowledge of the industry in which the client operates.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:
 - assessing the design effectiveness of controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
 - challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates;
 - identifying and testing journal entries, in particular manual journal entries made at year end for financial statement preparation; and
 - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

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 for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SEN TRUST SOUTHEND (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

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

Jason Lamont

Jason Lamont ACA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

MWS

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditor

Kingsridge House

601 London Road

Westcliff-On-Sea

Essex

SS0 9PE

Date: 20 December 2024

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SEN TRUST SOUTHEND AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 25 June 2020 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 SEN Trust Southend during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of SEN Trust Southend's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of SEN Trust Southend's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 14 July 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SEN TRUST SOUTHEND AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Assessing the risk of material irregularity in the Academy Trust
- Commissioning a self-assessment review of the Trustees' governance arrangements and consideration of any material non-compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Investigating any areas of significant risk identified
- Consideration of the work performed under our audit engagement and any impact this may have on our regularity conclusion or regularity risk assessment
- A review of the internal controls and internal audit procedures for areas of significant risk and performing further substantive testing where necessary.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

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

MWS

MWS
Chartered Accountants
Reporting Accountant

Kingsridge House
601 London Road
Westcliff-On-Sea
Essex
SS0 9PE

Date: 20 December 2024

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	63,630	-	889,048	952,678	228,953
Other trading activities		328,081	-	-	328,081	311,039
Investments	8	64,972	82,000	-	146,972	1,860
Charitable activities	5	760,332	15,536,694	-	16,297,026	14,335,880
Total income		1,217,015	15,618,694	889,048	17,724,757	14,877,732
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		155,506	38,408	-	193,914	165,458
Charitable activities	10	886,388	14,439,580	703,291	16,029,259	18,278,522
Total expenditure		1,041,894	14,477,988	703,291	16,223,173	18,443,980
Net income/(expenditure)		175,121	1,140,706	185,757	1,501,584	(3,566,248)
Transfers between funds	21	-	(388,983)	388,983	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		175,121	751,723	574,740	1,501,584	(3,566,248)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	(568,000)	-	(568,000)	1,356,000
Net movement in funds		175,121	183,723	574,740	933,584	(2,210,248)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,218,864	2,970,993	33,086,568	39,276,425	41,486,673
Net movement in funds		175,121	183,723	574,740	933,584	(2,210,248)
Total funds carried forward		3,393,985	3,154,716	33,661,308	40,210,009	39,276,425

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 32 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07973980

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	33,670,996	33,127,585
		<u>33,670,996</u>	<u>33,127,585</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	18	6,077	11,181
Debtors	19	878,638	351,066
Cash at bank and in hand		6,838,492	7,316,881
		<u>7,723,207</u>	<u>7,679,128</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	<u>(1,184,194)</u>	<u>(1,530,288)</u>
Net current assets		6,539,013	6,148,840
Total assets less current liabilities		40,210,009	39,276,425
Total net assets		40,210,009	39,276,425
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	21	33,661,308	33,086,568
Restricted income funds	21	3,154,716	2,970,993
Total restricted funds	21	36,816,024	36,057,561
Unrestricted income funds	21	3,393,985	3,218,864
Total funds		40,210,009	39,276,425

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07973980

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

The financial statements on pages 28 to 68 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Jane Oliver

J Oliver
Chair of Trustees

Mrs J Mullan

J Mullan
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 32 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	23	(211,519)	176,013
Cash flows from investing activities			
	24	(266,870)	(59,586)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(478,389)	116,427
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		7,316,881	7,200,454
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	6,838,492	7,316,881

The notes on pages 32 to 68 form part of these financial statements

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. General information

SEN Trust Southend is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales.

Its registered office is The St Christopher School, Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-On-Sea, Essex, SS9 4AW.

2. Accounting policies

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

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

SEN Trust Southend meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and the audit and risk committee consider a period of 3 years from the year end, and based on this, the trustees have concluded that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy)**

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

2.4 Expenditure

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

• **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure (continued)

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy.

2.6 Taxation

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

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	- Straight line over 50 years and straight line over 10 years
Long-term leasehold	- Straight line over various expected useful lives
Improvements to property	- Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance

Assets in the course of construction are held on the balance sheet. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

2.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

SEN TRUST SOUTHEND
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 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 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.

2.12 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 19. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

2.13 Operating leases

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

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Pensions

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

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

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

Where the estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeds the estimated total liabilities, the resulting surplus will only be recognised where there is an expectation that future contributions will reduce, or that the scheme will refund contributions already made.

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

2.15 Fund accounting

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

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

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Academy 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 28, 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.

At the reporting date the Academy Trust's estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeded the estimated liabilities. The Trust have judged that the value of the asset should be reduced to £Nil, in line with the valuation of the actuary, with the expectation that future contributions will not reduce, nor will the Trust receive any refund of contributions already made.

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

4. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations					
Respite centre	504	-	-	504	2,252
Other donations	45,026	-	-	45,026	49,562
Donated gifts and services	18,100	-	-	18,100	44,918
Subtotal donations	63,630	-	-	63,630	96,732
RAAC capital grant	-	-	791,469	791,469	-
Capital grants	-	-	97,579	97,579	132,221
Subtotal	-	-	889,048	889,048	132,221
	63,630	-	889,048	952,678	228,953
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>66,152</i>	<i>132,221</i>	<i>30,580</i>	<i>228,953</i>	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational Operations	-	15,536,694	15,536,694	13,551,608
Provision of Respite Activities	760,332	-	760,332	784,271
	760,332	15,536,694	16,297,026	14,335,879
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>784,271</i>	<i>13,551,608</i>	<i>14,335,879</i>	

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

6. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational Operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,670,000	5,670,000	5,670,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	353,337	353,337	303,451
Others	176,179	176,179	122,266
	6,199,516	6,199,516	6,095,717
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	8,610,982	8,610,982	6,901,863
Teachers pension and pay grants	726,196	726,196	350,821
	9,337,178	9,337,178	7,252,684
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	-	203,207
	-	-	203,207
	15,536,694	15,536,694	13,551,608
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>13,551,608</i>	<i>13,551,608</i>	

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

7. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Uniform income	2,337	2,337	6,051
Hire of facilities	64,382	64,382	56,047
Catering income	55,253	55,253	55,608
Training income	15,105	15,105	7,160
Extended school income	88,098	88,098	93,347
Other income	102,906	102,906	92,826
	<u>328,081</u>	<u>328,081</u>	<u>311,039</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>311,039</u>	<u>311,039</u>	

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Deposit account interest	64,972	-	64,972	1,860
Pension income	-	82,000	82,000	-
	<u>64,972</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>146,972</u>	<u>1,860</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,860</u>	

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

9. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Costs incurred by trading for a fundraising purpose:					
Direct costs	-	-	193,914	193,914	165,458
Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	11,693,503	703,291	486,489	12,883,283	14,582,049
Allocated support costs	891,039	929,588	466,096	2,286,723	2,624,077
Provision of respite activities:					
Direct costs	747,573	23,604	27,087	798,264	680,279
Allocated support costs	-	32,043	28,946	60,989	392,117
	<u>13,332,115</u>	<u>1,688,526</u>	<u>1,202,532</u>	<u>16,223,173</u>	<u>18,443,980</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u><u>12,174,231</u></u>	<u><u>5,040,315</u></u>	<u><u>1,229,434</u></u>	<u><u>18,443,980</u></u>	

10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Educational Operations	27,135	15,142,871	15,170,006	17,206,126
Respite Activities	859,253	-	859,253	1,072,396
	<u>886,388</u>	<u>15,142,871</u>	<u>16,029,259</u>	<u>18,278,522</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u><u>1,098,450</u></u>	<u><u>17,180,072</u></u>	<u><u>18,278,522</u></u>	

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

11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational Operations	12,883,283	2,286,723	15,170,006	17,206,126
Respite Activities	798,264	60,989	859,253	1,072,396
	<u>13,681,547</u>	<u>2,347,712</u>	<u>16,029,259</u>	<u>18,278,522</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>15,262,328</u>	<u>3,016,194</u>	<u>18,278,522</u>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Educational Operations 2024 £	Respite 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	11,693,503	747,573	12,441,076	11,013,583
Depreciation and impairment	703,291	23,604	726,895	3,757,803
Technology costs	169,797	-	169,797	132,941
Educational supplies	292,169	-	292,169	280,672
Examination fees	1,531	-	1,531	1,833
Other direct costs	22,992	4,471	27,463	31,988
Catering	-	22,616	22,616	18,919
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	24,589
	<u>12,883,283</u>	<u>798,264</u>	<u>13,681,547</u>	<u>15,262,328</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>14,582,049</u>	<u>680,279</u>	<u>15,262,328</u>	

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

11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational Operations 2024 £	Respite 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Pension finance costs	-	-	-	31,000
Staff costs	891,039	-	891,039	1,160,648
Recruitment and support	141,539	4,897	146,436	190,417
Maintenance of premises and equipment	313,082	21,184	334,266	745,537
Cleaning	213,935	-	213,935	190,875
Rent and rates	21,493	3,218	24,711	16,181
Energy costs	381,078	7,641	388,719	349,837
Insurance	17,695	-	17,695	16,865
Security and transport	51,318	8,395	59,713	64,000
Bank charges	927	-	927	(583)
Legal and professional fees	217,789	-	217,789	197,827
Other support costs	5,980	15,654	21,634	31,528
PPS & telephone	30,848	-	30,848	22,062
	<u>2,286,723</u>	<u>60,989</u>	<u>2,347,712</u>	<u>3,016,194</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>2,624,077</u>	<u>392,117</u>	<u>3,016,194</u>	

During the year ended 31 August 2024, the Trust incurred governance costs of £27,160 (2023: £26,800).

12. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	<i>2023 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	878	625
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	726,895	3,757,803
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	24,589
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	16,500	16,500
- other services	3,500	3,500
	<u>747,773</u>	<u>3,802,417</u>

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

13. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	10,348,640	9,215,207
Social security costs	882,110	794,402
Pension costs	1,929,370	2,037,196
	13,160,120	12,046,805
Agency staff costs	145,781	127,426
Staff restructuring and severance costs	26,214	-
	13,332,115	12,174,231

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2024 £	2023 £
Redundancy payments	10,214	-
Severance payments	16,000	-
	26,214	-

b. Severance payments

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

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

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

13. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Teaching staff	73	74
Administrative and support staff	324	287
Management staff	20	20
	<u>417</u>	<u>381</u>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	2
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £595,632 (2023 £568,270).

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

14. Central services

The Trust has provided the following central services to its schools during the year:

- Corporate governance and reporting
- Provision of executive and support staff
- Financial support services
- Staff training
- Legal and audit services
- Professional fees
- IT support and software
- Other administrative services as arising

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Charging a 'top slice' of 5.5% based on each school's top up funding.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	£
The St Christopher School	159,135	<i>119,612</i>
Kingsdown School	86,592	<i>69,813</i>
St Nicholas School	54,708	<i>40,134</i>
Lancaster School	84,401	<i>63,700</i>
Total	384,836	<i>293,259</i>

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

15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2024	<i>2023</i>
		£	<i>£</i>
J Mullan, (Accounting Officer)	Remuneration	50,000 -	<i>40,000 -</i>
		55,000	<i>45,000</i>
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	<i>0 - 5,000</i>

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

16. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The premium for this insurance is included within the academy trust's general insurance premium and is not separately identifiable.

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

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 September 2023	13,410,164	26,449,039	1,010,891	482,278	305,780	268,536	41,926,688
Additions	-	783,744	164,580	274,808	23,904	23,270	1,270,306
At 31 August 2024	<u>13,410,164</u>	<u>27,232,783</u>	<u>1,175,471</u>	<u>757,086</u>	<u>329,684</u>	<u>291,806</u>	<u>43,196,994</u>
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2023	1,662,833	5,582,974	812,871	336,333	202,610	201,482	8,799,103
Charge for the year	157,752	428,550	35,823	29,201	56,692	18,877	726,895
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,820,585</u>	<u>6,011,524</u>	<u>848,694</u>	<u>365,534</u>	<u>259,302</u>	<u>220,359</u>	<u>9,525,998</u>
Net book value							
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>11,589,579</u></u>	<u><u>21,221,259</u></u>	<u><u>326,777</u></u>	<u><u>391,552</u></u>	<u><u>70,382</u></u>	<u><u>71,447</u></u>	<u><u>33,670,996</u></u>
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>11,747,331</u></u>	<u><u>20,866,065</u></u>	<u><u>198,020</u></u>	<u><u>145,945</u></u>	<u><u>103,170</u></u>	<u><u>67,054</u></u>	<u><u>33,127,585</u></u>

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

17. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The Academy's transactions relating to land and buildings included an impairment in the SOFA in the prior year of £2,919,600 in respect of the main building at Kingsdown School, which was been found to contain RAAC. The buildings value was impaired in the accounts by the estimated cost of bringing the building back up to standard. The cost of the works will then be recognised as additions in subsequent years' accounts.

Additons in the current year include £783,744 of mitigation works in relation to the RAAC issue.

The impairment charge was included in the Statement of Financial Activities within depreciation and impairment costs in the prior year.

As at the year end, held within fixed assets is a impairment of £2,919,600 (2023: £2,919,600).

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

18. Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Uniform and catering stock	6,077	11,181

19. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	96,232	70,216
Other debtors	546,915	78,932
Prepayments and accrued income	235,491	201,918
	878,638	351,066

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	288,604	157,074
Other taxation and social security	184,586	175,435
Other creditors	17,887	856,808
Accruals and deferred income	693,117	340,971
	1,184,194	1,530,288

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	74,636	62,295
Resources deferred during the year	502,652	74,636
Amounts released from previous periods	(74,636)	(62,295)
	502,652	74,636

Income was deferred during the year as follows:

16-19 bursary grant £302 (2023: £Nil)
Cottage respite stays income for post year-end £66,229 (2023: £68,095)
DofE licence fee annual grant £185 (2023: £Nil)
DofE pupil contributions in advance £70 (2023: £175)
Money for school dinners in advance £199 (2023: £533)
Relational practice grant £7,750 (2023: £Nil)
Short Breaks grant £5,833 (2023: £5,833)
Small capital bid grant £31,564 (2023: £Nil)
Swimming pool lettings income £9,790 (2023: Nil)

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

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Teachers pay and pensions grants £379,994 (2023: £Nil)

The Award Scheme £736 (2023: £Nil)

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

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Redevelopment of current buildings	-	-	-	2,150,000	-	2,150,000
Fit out of new classrooms	-	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,650,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,650,000</u>
General funds						
General fund	2,777,175	456,179	(182,641)	(2,650,000)	-	400,713
Respite Centre	441,689	760,836	(859,253)	-	-	343,272
	<u>3,218,864</u>	<u>1,217,015</u>	<u>(1,041,894)</u>	<u>(2,650,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>743,985</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>3,218,864</u>	<u>1,217,015</u>	<u>(1,041,894)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,393,985</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,766,189	5,670,000	(4,869,874)	(772,110)	-	2,794,205
Other DfE/ESFA	-	176,179	(176,179)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority Grants	-	8,610,982	(8,610,982)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	53,590	353,337	(338,191)	-	-	68,736
Teachers Pension and Pay Grants	-	726,196	(726,196)	-	-	-
MAT	149,505	-	(242,566)	384,836	-	291,775
ESFA capital grants	1,709	-	-	(1,709)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	82,000	486,000	-	(568,000)	-
	<u>2,970,993</u>	<u>15,618,694</u>	<u>(14,477,988)</u>	<u>(388,983)</u>	<u>(568,000)</u>	<u>3,154,716</u>

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Inherited FA on conversion	25,968,375	-	(312,370)	-	-	25,656,005
Assets purchased	7,087,357	-	(385,049)	1,270,306	-	7,972,614
ESFA grants	-	97,579	-	(97,579)	-	-
DfE grants re RAAC claims	-	791,469	-	(783,744)	-	7,725
Donated by DfE	5,836	-	(3,372)	-	-	2,464
Donated assets	25,000	-	(2,500)	-	-	22,500
	<u>33,086,568</u>	<u>889,048</u>	<u>(703,291)</u>	<u>388,983</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,661,308</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>36,057,561</u>	<u>16,507,742</u>	<u>(15,181,279)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(568,000)</u>	<u>36,816,024</u>
Total funds	<u><u>39,276,425</u></u>	<u><u>17,724,757</u></u>	<u><u>(16,223,173)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(568,000)</u></u>	<u><u>40,210,009</u></u>

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Unrestricted funds

These funds are to be used for the furtherance of any of the academy trust's charitable activities and can be used at the governors' discretion.

General Annual Grant (GAG)

These funds are to be used in accordance with the academy trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

This fund represents capital funding to be used for capital purposes less any depreciation charges on such expenditure.

Pension Fund

The pension reserve relates to the academy trust's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme. At the reporting date the Academy Trust's estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeded the estimated total liabilities. The resulting surplus should only be recognised where there is an expectation that future contributions will reduce, or that the scheme will refund contributions already made. As there have been no indications that the Trust will be entitled to a refund or any reduction to the employer's contribution rate, the surplus has not been recognised.

Transfers between funds

£388,983 has been transferred from the restricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund representing capital assets purchased from GAG and DFC.

£1,270,306 has been transferred within restricted fixed asset fund representing assets purchased from capital grants.

£384,836 has been transferred from GAG to the MAT fund which represents the funding of central services.

£2,650,000 has been transferred from unrestricted reserves to designated reserves, representing funds earmarked for specific projects.

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

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

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	2,621,500	376,799	(153,519)	(67,605)	-	2,777,175
Respite Centre	727,561	784,272	(1,072,396)	2,252	-	441,689
Respite Centre-donations	-	2,252	-	(2,252)	-	-
	<u>3,349,061</u>	<u>1,163,323</u>	<u>(1,225,915)</u>	<u>(67,605)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,218,864</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,502,714	5,670,000	(5,104,239)	(302,286)	-	2,766,189
Other DfE/ESFA	22,526	122,266	(144,792)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority Grants	-	6,901,863	(6,901,863)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	105,236	303,451	(355,097)	-	-	53,590
Teachers Pension and Pay Grants	-	350,821	(350,821)	-	-	-
Covid Catch Up Premium	-	203,207	(203,207)	-	-	-
Other Covid-19 Funding	7,200	-	(7,200)	-	-	-
MAT	129,290	-	(273,044)	293,259	-	149,505
ESFA capital grants	-	132,221	(130,512)	-	-	1,709
Pension reserve	(1,348,000)	-	(8,000)	-	1,356,000	-
	<u>1,418,966</u>	<u>13,683,829</u>	<u>(13,478,775)</u>	<u>(9,027)</u>	<u>1,356,000</u>	<u>2,970,993</u>

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £</i>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Inherited FA on conversion	28,780,681	-	(2,812,306)	-	-	25,968,375
Assets purchased	7,912,282	-	(909,472)	84,547	-	7,087,357
ESFA grants	2,335	-	-	(2,335)	-	-
Capital donations	-	5,580	-	(5,580)	-	-
Donated by DfE	23,347	-	(17,511)	-	-	5,836
Donated assets	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
	<u>36,718,645</u>	<u>30,580</u>	<u>(3,739,289)</u>	<u>76,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,086,568</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>38,137,611</u>	<u>13,714,409</u>	<u>(17,218,064)</u>	<u>67,605</u>	<u>1,356,000</u>	<u>36,057,561</u>
Total funds	<u><u>41,486,672</u></u>	<u><u>14,877,732</u></u>	<u><u>(18,443,979)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,356,000</u></u>	<u><u>39,276,425</u></u>

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
St Christopher School	4,636,477	4,903,765
Kingsdown School	410,954	307,425
St Nicholas Secondary School	642,452	416,052
Lancaster School	567,047	413,110
Central services	291,771	149,505
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	6,548,701	6,189,857
Restricted fixed asset fund	33,661,308	33,086,568
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	40,210,009	39,276,425

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
St Christopher School	4,581,410	1,245,512	101,374	749,599	6,677,895	6,625,539
Kingsdown School	2,562,580	351,788	20,459	340,776	3,275,603	3,137,356
St Nicholas Secondary School	1,466,230	291,454	76,073	269,882	2,103,639	1,898,771
Lancaster School	2,341,162	313,993	94,263	402,972	3,152,390	2,751,467
Central services	-	177,986	-	108,765	286,751	273,044
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Academy	10,951,382	2,380,733	292,169	1,871,994	15,496,278	14,686,177

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

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	17,413	-	33,653,583	33,670,996
Current assets	3,452,790	4,262,692	7,725	7,723,207
Creditors due within one year	(76,218)	(1,107,976)	-	(1,184,194)
Total	3,393,985	3,154,716	33,661,308	40,210,009

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	41,017	-	33,086,568	33,127,585
Current assets	3,252,482	4,426,646	-	7,679,128
Creditors due within one year	(74,635)	(1,455,653)	-	(1,530,288)
Total	3,218,864	2,970,993	33,086,568	39,276,425

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

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	1,501,584	(3,566,248)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment	726,895	3,757,803
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(889,048)	(132,221)
Interest receivable	(64,972)	(1,860)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(494,000)	(9,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(82,000)	20,000
Decrease in stocks	5,104	1,384
Increase in debtors	(576,988)	(99,531)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(346,094)	175,076
Gain / loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	24,610
Pension administration expenses	8,000	6,000
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(211,519)	176,013

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	64,972	1,860
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,220,890)	(193,667)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	889,048	132,221
Net cash used in investing activities	(266,870)	(59,586)

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	6,838,492	7,316,881
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,838,492	7,316,881

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

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	7,316,881	(478,389)	6,838,492
	7,316,881	(478,389)	6,838,492

27. Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	11,910	-
	11,910	-

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

28. Pension commitments

The Academy'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 Essex County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £ - were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £221,959) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £885,000 (2023 - £827,000).

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

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

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

28. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,746,000 (2023 - £1,518,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,417,000 (2023 - £1,233,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 329,000 (2023 - £285,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.2 - 25 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80	3.88
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.80	2.88
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	5.27
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80	2.90
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.05	3.16

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	20.7
Females	23.3	23.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.0
Females	24.7	24.6

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

28. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	308	<i>259</i>
Discount rate -0.1%	(318)	<i>(268)</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(321)	<i>(291)</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	313	<i>282</i>
Salary increases +0.1%	(6)	<i>(17)</i>
Salary increases -0.1%	6	<i>17</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

Share of scheme assets

The Academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31	<i>At 31 August</i>
	August 2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Equities	8,307,000	<i>6,818,000</i>
Gilts	255,000	<i>151,000</i>
Property	1,038,000	<i>918,000</i>
Cash and other liquid assets	252,000	<i>344,000</i>
Alternative assets	2,208,000	<i>1,856,000</i>
Other managed funds	2,723,000	<i>1,635,000</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>
Total market value of assets	14,783,000	<i>11,722,000</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,444,000 (2023 - £510,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Current service cost	(923,000)	<i>(1,204,000)</i>
Interest income	661,000	<i>458,000</i>
Interest cost	(579,000)	<i>(489,000)</i>
Administrative expenses	(8,000)	<i>(6,000)</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(849,000)	<i>(1,241,000)</i>
	=====	<i>=====</i>

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

28. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September	11,722,000	11,544,000
Current service cost	923,000	1,204,000
Interest cost	579,000	489,000
Employee contributions	329,000	285,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	1,351,000	(1,567,000)
Benefits paid	(121,000)	(233,000)
	<u>14,783,000</u>	<u>11,722,000</u>
At 31 August	14,783,000	11,722,000

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September	11,722,000	10,196,000
Interest income	661,000	458,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	783,000	(211,000)
Employer contributions	1,417,000	1,233,000
Employee contributions	329,000	285,000
Benefits paid	(121,000)	(233,000)
Administration costs	(8,000)	(6,000)
	<u>14,783,000</u>	<u>11,722,000</u>
At 31 August	14,783,000	11,722,000

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

28. Pension commitments (continued)

Impact of the McCloud/Sargeant judgement on the Local Government Pension Scheme

An allowance was made in 2019 for the Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud & Sargeant cases which relate to age discrimination within the Judicial & Fire Pension schemes respectively. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal, and on 15 July 2019 the Government released a statement to confirm that it expects to have to amend all public service schemes, including the LGPS.

The estimated impact on the total liabilities at 31 August 2019 was allowed for as a past service cost and has resulted in a slight increase in the defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2024.

This adjustment is an estimate of the potential impact on the Trust's defined benefit obligation as provided by the scheme's actuary.

On 13 May 2021, the Government issued a ministerial statement on the proposed remedy to be applied to LGPS benefits in response to the McCloud and Sargeant cases. It is not anticipated that there are any material differences between the approach underlying the estimated allowance in 2019 and the proposed remedy.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation

As a result of the High Court's Lloyds ruling on the equalisation of GMPs between genders, it is anticipated that the Fund will pay limited increases for members that have reached State Pension Age (SPA) by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase.

For members that reach SPA after this date, it has been assumed in the valuation that the Fund will be required to pay the entire inflationary increase. It is not therefore necessary to make any adjustments to the value placed on the liabilities as a result of the above outcome.

Goodwin case

Following a case involving the Teachers' Pension scheme, known as the Goodwin case, differences between survivor benefits payable to members with same-sex or opposite-sex survivors have been identified within a number of public sector pension schemes. As a result, the Government have confirmed that a remedy is required in all affected public sector pension schemes, which includes the LGPS.

It is anticipated that the impact on the value of LGPS liabilities as a whole, and for the majority of employers participating in the LGPS, will not be material. However, the impact on individual employers will vary depending on their specific membership profile.

Sufficient information is not currently available to assess the actual impact on the Academy Trust as such no provision has been included within these financial statements.

Asset Ceiling

At the reporting date the Academy Trust's estimated fair value of LGPS scheme assets exceeded the estimated total liabilities. The resulting surplus should only be recognised where there is an expectation that future contributions will reduce, or that the scheme will refund contributions already made.

The scheme actuaries have assessed the position and concluded:

- There is no right for the Trust to receive a refund of the surplus at a level required by the accounting standard.
- The Trust is expected and assumed, as an academy trust, to participate in the scheme indefinitely.
- The Trust is bound by a minimum funding requirement to make contributions to the fund, and there is no expectation for the contribution rates to change beyond the information provided by the existing Rates and Adjustments certificate.

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

- FRS102 does not require any additional liability recognised from an onerous funding commitment.

- Any reduction in contributions is expected to have an economic benefit of £Nil.

As the recognition threshold for the surplus has not been reached the Academy Trust's share of the net plan assets/liabilities have been reduced to £Nil in the financial statements.

The amount of asset derecognised was £1,979,000 and is included in the gains and losses on the Trust's share of scheme assets.

29. Operating lease commitments

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	1,130	625
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	610	-
	1,740	625

30. Members' liability

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

31. Related party transactions

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

M Fox, spouse of L Fox, the Headteacher of St. Nicholas School, was employed by St Nicholas School as a music tutor and received remuneration totalling £7,130 (2023 - £8,117) during the year. L Fox was not involved in the decision-making process regarding M Fox's appointment. M Fox received no special treatment as a result of his relationship to the Headteacher.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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32. Academy respite trading account for the year ended 31 August

	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Income				
Respite income	760,332		784,271	
Respite donations	504		2,252	
	<u>760,836</u>		<u>786,523</u>	
Total income		760,836		786,523
Expenditure				
Provisions, social skills and events	25,446		23,165	
Printing and stationery	1,641		1,330	
Staff costs	747,573		637,270	
Recruitment and support	4,897		3,221	
Maintenance of premises and equipment	21,184		347,585	
Cleaning	-		10,305	
Utilities	10,859		7,983	
Security and transport	8,395		8,093	
Other support costs	15,654		14,930	
Depreciation	23,604		18,514	
	<u>859,253</u>		<u>1,072,396</u>	
Total operating costs		859,253		1,072,396
Deficit from all sources		(98,417)		(285,872)
Surplus brought forward		441,689		727,561
Surplus carried forward		<u>343,272</u>		<u>441,689</u>