

Company Registration Number: 07706726 (England & Wales)

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**CONTENTS**

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	Page
<b>Reference and administrative details</b>	1
<b>Governors' report</b>	2 - 10
<b>Governance statement</b>	11 - 14
<b>Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance</b>	15
<b>Statement of governors' responsibilities</b>	16
<b>Independent auditor's report on the financial statements</b>	17 - 20
<b>Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity</b>	21 - 22
<b>Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account</b>	23
<b>Balance sheet</b>	24
<b>Statement of cash flows</b>	25
<b>Notes to the financial statements</b>	26 - 52

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	J Bishop M Caine C Mitchell
<b>Governors</b>	I R N Ballsdon (resigned 28 June 2023) P Garden S Cooke, Head Teacher B McAvoy J Loftus, Chair of Governors J A Kettell (resigned 19 October 2022) J Reynolds P Jacobs M Locke (appointed 28 June 2023)
<b>Company registered number</b>	07706726
<b>Company name</b>	The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust
<b>Registered office</b>	Conwy Close Tilehurst Reading Berkshire RG30 4BZ
<b>Company secretary</b>	T Green
<b>Senior management team</b>	S Cooke, Head Teacher M Eben-Aimine, Deputy Head Teacher T Green, Finance Manager N Stevens
<b>Independent auditor</b>	Crowe U.K. LLP Aquis House 49-51 Blagrove Street Reading Berkshire RG1 1PL
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Reading RG1 2BT
<b>Solicitors</b>	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Cattle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**GOVERNORS' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

The trust operates a special needs academy for pupils aged 3 - 19. Places are offered to pupils within the Reading Borough Council local authority as well as to those pupils from surrounding Local Authorities with EHCP, school admissions are not subject to a catchment area. All of admissions are handled by Reading Borough Council. A change of school or placement is requested through the Annual Review process. Before a child is able to attend The Avenue School, the Local Authority must agree that The Avenue School are an appropriate school for the child. In the academic year the school was funded for 190 places.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt Charitable Company.

The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The Governors act as the Trustees for the charitable activities of The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust and are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of Company Law.

The charitable company is known as The Avenue School.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year except as noted 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. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors**

The Members may appoint nine Trustees save that no more than one third of the total number of individuals appointed as Trustees shall be employees of the Academy Trust (including the Head Teacher). From September 2021 no employees were permitted to be Trustees except for the Headteacher, in line with ESFA guidelines.

Recruitment of trustees is carried out on a need basis. Parent Trustees are recruited via an application and further election, where necessary. Other trustees are recruited based on the needs highlighted from the skills audit.

**d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Governors**

The Academy purchases membership of Reading Borough Council Governor's Services as part of the Academy SLA agreement. Induction and training course dates are highlighted to the members of the Governing Body immediately. Trustees are encouraged to take up this training as well as other relevant training for example from The National College and National Trustees Association. The school is also a member of the School Bus Organisation which provide support for Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

**e. Organisational structure**

As specified in the Articles of Association the business of the Academy Trust is managed by the Trustees who exercise all the powers of the Academy Trust. The Trustees consider advice given by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. Trustees are responsible for setting policies, planning and budget setting and making senior staff appointments and monitoring the performance of the Headteacher annually.

The academy board of Trustees is made up of several members, including parent trustees. The full governing body meets 5 times a year to approve decisions, school development plan and financial status. Policies are reviewed and approved via The School Bus on line portal. The Governing Body takes a strategic role, and delegates the responsibility of advising on all financial matters to the Finance, Audit, Risk, Property & Staffing committee, though retains overall approval for financial decisions.

The day to day running of the academy is delegated to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team who implement the policies agreed by the Trustees. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgetary limits and appointment of staff except the Senior Leadership Team. The Headteacher has been appointed as the Accounting Officer. A member of the Governing Body has been appointed as the Responsible Officer.

The Governing body of The Avenue School Special Needs academy completed a skills audit on 19th October 2022.

The Trust is actively reviewing its members and trustee structure to ensure the correct skills are obtained for each role.

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

All key personnel can expect to receive regular, constructive feedback on their performance and are subject to annual appraisal that recognises their strengths, informs plans for their future development and helps to enhance their professional practice.

Trustees delegate responsibility for all staff appraisals and pay reviews (apart from the Headteacher) to the Headteacher. The Headteacher's performance and pay reviews are carried out by a delegation of Trustees. Teacher's pay reviews are paid with effect from 1st September, backdated as appropriate.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

**g. Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

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

**Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time** £

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	-
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

**Paid trade union activities**

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

The Boddington Trust Fund is a related charity by value of the common address.



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefits and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

The charitable company's objectives are to provide and maintain, manage and develop Special Needs Education.

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- To provide the very best opportunities for all pupils to enable them to fulfil their full potential mentally, physically, socially and emotionally;
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupil to develop the skills and knowledge needed for life;
- To implement individual curriculum intent statements for each pupil;
- To develop and maintain a high quality learning environment; supported by an appropriate and evolving assessment system;
- To establish consistency and high expectations and support staff with their own personal development and preparation for the future of special education within the authority;
- To embed communication strategies that best suit our pupils' individual needs;
- To continue to support staff and pupil wellbeing.

The special educational provision is made for one or more categories of Special Educational Needs. These categories may include, but are not limited to, severe and complex learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and needs associated with physical disabilities.

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The main strategy is encompassed in the mission statement: "To enhance each individual's quality of life and maximise independence through an individual approach to the development of communication, personal and social, physical, academic and life skills. Learning will be delivered through an approach to PACE: Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (Dan Hughes, 1997)".

Establishing a learning environment designed to inspire students in their quest for knowledge and skills through a range of learning strategies and activities, to maximise independence and opportunities beyond school; Establishing a structure to maintain and improve the high standards in the school.

Ensure value for money with efficient and effective use of public funds.

**c. Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The Academy's objective is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the area in particular but without prejudice to the area of establishing, maintaining and developing a school offering special needs education for pupils with an EHCP or Statement of Special Educational Needs.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

The academy has completed its eleventh year of operation. The school has been operating for over 100 years.

Pupils have a baseline assessment completed on admission including both social skills and attainment in basic skills to enable us to have a true picture of the individual to support their transition and appropriate target setting. The school's database brings together a wide range of data including attendance and any additional interventions to support individual learning.

Close scrutiny and analysis of this information leads to a judgement that no one group under performs. Individual pupils on free school meals who receive additional pupil premium funding are provided with the relevant and necessary support to help them meet their maximum potential.

The school prides itself in having a clear focus on the needs of individual pupils and no one pupil is disadvantaged.

During the year the academy is proud to list amongst its achievements:

- Continued progress implementing individual curriculum intent statements;
- Continuing the level of provision for our pupils, whilst being presented with a significant recruitment challenge;
- Expansion of the sixth form provision into a newly refurbished part of the building
- Ofsted rating of Good, with Outstanding in behaviour and attitudes; and is effective at safeguarding, systems are robust, procedures to check adults before their employment are thorough; record-keeping is well organized and safeguarding referrals are made quickly.

**a. Key performance indicators**

An Ofsted section 8 inspection carried out in May 2023 stated that "pupils are happy to come to school... their enjoyment is clear to see" and "They thrive and are well prepared for their next stage". The report stated: Leaders work with determination to ensure pupils achieve their full potential"; "The school curriculum has been reviewed and carefully organized to meet the needs of the pupils"; "A culture of warm, welcoming relationships lies at the heart of this friendly school". What the school needs to do to improve: Leaders should continue their work to integrate pupils' personalised targets into the wider curriculum and ensure systems for oversight are consistently robust; Leaders should continue to ensure staff have the necessary knowledge and expertise through the school's training and development programme (to aid pupils to communicate as confidently and independently as they would like to).

Data is a crucial tool at The Avenue School. Information gathered from a programme of monitoring will support pupil data collected, including learning walks, work scrutiny, planning activity and behaviour.

The school has increased the number of pupils on roll in six consecutive years, following requests by the Local Authority, this highlights the good reputation of the school in the community and has introduced financial efficiencies. Trustees aim to ensure the school maintains its standards whilst expanding.



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**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. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

**Financial review**

The school's funding is obtained from EFA General Annual Grant, plus Special Educational Needs Top Up funding from the local authorities in which the pupils reside. The school saw a surplus of £243k (2022: *Surplus of £108k*) in the financial year, being the increase in funds excluding both the LGPS fund and the restricted fixed asset funds. The reserves will be required in the coming years to cover increases in cost of supplies and utilities. The LA funding surplus is used to purchase equipment and other support for specific pupil needs.

The surplus was generated primarily by increasing the pupil numbers, whilst managing costs. The use of the school facilities out of school hours has continued to generate revenue to support our After School Club and purchase specialist equipment for all pupils to enjoy.

**a. Reserves policy**

The directors' policy is to generate reserves to provide funds to continue to enhance the educational facilities and services of the school and to fund future projects. The directors intend to review the reserves policy annually to ensure that this aim can be achieved.

The Board of Directors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be a minimum of 2.5% of total funding, and ideally at a level to cover two month's payroll costs. The policy of the Trust is to carry forward a prudent level of resources designed to meet the long term cyclical needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies, subject to the constraint that the level of resources does not exceed the level permitted by the EFA. The Trust's free reserves as at 31st August 2023 were £241k (2022: *£180k*). These free reserves represent 2.4% of total incoming resources in the year. The reason for this reserve is to provide sufficient working capital and to provide a cushion to cover the increases employment costs and inflation on all expenses. The Trustees have allocated some of these reserves to repairing outside play spaces in the school over the coming years.

**b. Investment policy**

The directors' investment powers are set down in the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, which permit the investment of monies of the charitable company that are not immediately required for its purposes in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit subject to any restrictions which may from time to time be imposed or required by law. The policy is to minimise risk and maintain liquidity.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The principal risks are the pension fund where the school must make good its long term obligations, due to the nature of these obligations and the timeframes they are due to be realised over, there is a material uncertainty over the final balance. The Academy obtains advice from the scheme actuaries when discussing the pension scheme.

The other principal risk is the grants received for the funding of the school, these are decided annually and hence reduce the Governors' ability to produce long term budgets. This funding is planned to change in the short term, to align payments with other special schools.

**d. Plans for future periods**

The aims and objectives, as detailed in the School Development Plan, for providing special needs education for 2022 – 2023 are:

- To continue progress implementing individual curriculum intent statements;
- Expansion of the school to 100% occupation of the building;
- To continue the development of the curriculum in areas such as Phonics, Mathematics, PSHE and ICT;
- To review the staffing structure to meet the changing needs of the school;
- To develop a school to school support package to be available for local schools to buy.

**Fundraising**

The academy had no fundraising activities requiring disclosure under S162A of the Charities Act 2011.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

UK Greenhouse gas emissions use data for the period	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (KWH)	924,532	929,571
Energy consumption breakdown (KWH)		
• Gas	588,426	624,892
• Electricity	336,106	304,679
Energy consumption per pupil (KWH)	3,934.18	4,892.48
Number of pupils	235	190
<p><b>Energy consumption per pupil</b></p> <p>Is the measure of total energy consumption in KWH per pupil</p> <p><b>Measures taken to improve energy efficiency</b></p> <p>The building has been managed and maintained by the local authority since 2008. The trust has appointed a new Site Manager who has the responsibility of reviewing energy consumption. The building will be signed over to the trust in 2023/24, and then will have control over the building management system and review energy usage across the site.</p>		

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

Although the charitable company maintains restricted funds to deal with incoming resources that are earmarked for a particular purpose by donors, sponsors, and other funders, The Avenue Special Needs Academy Trust does not hold, and the directors do not anticipate that it will in the future hold, any funds as custodian for any third party.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Estate Management**

The estate is currently still owned and managed by the local authority. The lease will be signed and the estate management responsibility handed over to the trust in 2023/24. In preparation for this, the trust has appointed a Site Manager and appointed Strictly Education property services to support with planned and reactive maintenance.

In 2022/23, the local authority completed the renovation of the building to enable the trust to occupy the whole building, this included: repairs / improvements to fire strategy, creating a fully fitted life skills/food tech room; improvement to the school reception area to improve the safety of the pupils on site; installation of a sensory room and an indoor breakout space; and a 6th form centre. As part of the project, a building condition survey has been shared with the Trust.

The local authority will be carrying out a Fire Risk Assessment in September 2024, this will ensure that all required high to medium risk items are completed prior to the handover of the building.

The trustees will prepare an estate vision in 2023/24, which will set out the plans for the next 5 to 10 years, to ensure the estate provides a safe and well-maintained premises; appropriate teaching facilities, a positive pupil experience. This will include, but is not limited to: Security, reviewing external security including automated gates to the car park and improved CCTV, as well as improving the internal security on a door by door basis; Building Management systems, e.g. currently windows are automated, but do not work efficiently; strategy to replace lighting with LED lights.

The vision will be included in the School Development plan (SDP). The current SDP includes transformation of the library space into a multi-functional Learning Resource Centre.

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

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

The Governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**J Loftus**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**Scope of responsibility**

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

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 Head Teacher, 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 The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the period covered by these accounts.

The 5 meetings a year has still given the Trustees effective oversight of the running of the school, in that they are held within a timeframe of 10 months. Reporting over a longer period of time, allows actions to be in and feedback on progress/impact over time.

The headteacher has regular interactions and communications with Trustees. Records show at least weekly interactions between the formal meetings. Trustees also have access to class teachers/senior colleagues to gain an oversight between meetings. With restrictions easing, Trustees will also be encouraged to visit school between meetings to oversee progress against the School Development Plan. Trustees also support interviews in school and therefore have the opportunity for speaking to SLT and staff face to face to discuss matters, check on progress etc.. Trustees can arrange meetings, remotely or face to face with senior staff to discuss specific any issues. Generally, the Chair and Head discuss progress fortnightly.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Governors was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I R N Ballsdon (Resigned 28 June 2023)	2	3
P Garden	2	3
S Cooke, Head Teacher	3	3
J Loftus, Chair of Trustees	2	3
B McAvoy	3	3
J Reynolds	3	3
M Locke (Appointed 28 June 2023)	1	1

The trustees are actively recruiting one more parent governor.

The Trustees have focused on working with the school leadership team to support the School Development plan (SDP), expansion of the school and closer links with the school community. The board have noted, in particular, the quality of the Headteacher's reports presented at each Trustees' meeting and how this gives them a better understanding of the progress of the SDP etc.

The Trustees have completed a skills audit in October 2023 and will complete another one in 2023/24. There were no issues raised from the audit which needed to be addressed.



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Governance (continued)**

**Conflicts of Interest**

In order to manage conflicts of interest the Trust keeps a register of business interests of all Directors and Senior Staff. Additionally, a minuted check is carried out at the beginning of Board and Committee meetings where relevant business is being discussed. Anyone with a conflict would recuse themselves from any debate or decision making.

The Finance, Audit, Risk, Premises and Staffing Committee is a sub-committee of the main governing body. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. During the period, the committee has focused on ensuring good financial practice and policy is established in the school, staffing and expansion. They have approved the use of funds to upgrade some of the playground spaces.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
B McAvoy (chair)	4	4
P Garden	3	4
T Green	4	4
J Loftus	4	4
S Cooke	4	4

**Review of value for money**

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

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

1. Increasing the use of premises for community groups;
2. Increasing the number of pupils in the school / school expansion;
3. Reviewing spend to ensure value for money.

This statement encompasses safety and management.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The purpose of the system of internal control**

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

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Governing body has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Governing Body is of the view that there is a formal on going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2023 and up to the date approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process will be regularly reviewed by the Governing body.

**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 Governors
- regular reviews by the Audit, Risk, Premises and Staffing (FARPS) committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Governors has considered the need for a specific internal assurance function has appointed BISHOP FLEMING LLP as an internal auditor, this work was being carried out in line with ESFA requirements and the work carried out so far has not uncovered any material control issues. The checks carried out in 2020/21 included:

- Budgets and Financial Monitoring
- Compliance
- Income
- Payroll
- Bank & Cash
- Expenditure
- Fixed Assets

The audit was carried out in September 2023 and reported to the Board of Trustees through the Finance and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The risk and control framework (continued)**

The work was carried out in line with the ESFA requirements and the work carried out so far has not uncovered any material control issues.

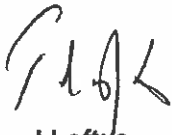
**Review of effectiveness**

As accounting officer, the Head Teacher 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 assurance auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



**J Loftus**  
Chair of Trustees



**S Cooke**  
Accounting Officer

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As accounting officer of The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy Board of Governors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy Board of Governors 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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



**S Cooke**

Accounting Officer

Date: 13 December 2023

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Governors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' 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 Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

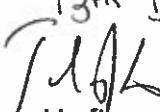
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

The Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors on  
and signed on its behalf by:

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
  
J Loffus  
Chair of Trustees



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2022 to 2023 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 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the 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 Governors' 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 Governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Governors 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 Governors' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Governors' 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 Governors' 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 Governors' 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 governors' responsibilities, the Governors (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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors either intend to liquidate the academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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 within which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction and the Academy Trust Handbook. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context were General Data Protection Regulation, health and safety legislation, Ofsted and employee legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquire of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the ESFA, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing noncompliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**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 Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Janette Joyce (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Aquis House

49-51 Blagrove Street

Reading

Berkshire

RG1 1PL

Date: 14 December 2023

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING  
AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 October 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

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

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



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE  
AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING  
AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

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**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:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- analytical procedures on the general activities of the Academy Trust;
- a review of Minutes of Committees and Board Meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel, including the Accounting Officer and Governing Body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity
- substantive testing of individual transactions.

**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 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*Crowe U.K. LLP*

Reporting Accountant  
**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Aquis House  
49-51 Blagrove Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 1PL

Date: 14 December 2023

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,900	-	3,050,470	3,053,370	13,040
Other trading activities		138,608	-	-	138,608	97,224
Investments		169	-	-	169	123
Charitable activities		28,081	6,915,861	-	6,943,942	6,295,682
<b>Total income</b>		<b>169,758</b>	<b>6,915,861</b>	<b>3,050,470</b>	<b>10,136,089</b>	<b>6,406,069</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds		3,237	-	-	3,237	1,602
Charitable activities		105,677	6,791,566	304,133	7,201,376	7,879,548
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>108,914</b>	<b>6,791,566</b>	<b>304,133</b>	<b>7,204,613</b>	<b>7,881,150</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>60,844</b>	<b>124,295</b>	<b>2,746,337</b>	<b>2,931,476</b>	<b>(1,475,081)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	(135,301)	135,301	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains</b>		<b>60,844</b>	<b>(11,006)</b>	<b>2,881,638</b>	<b>2,931,476</b>	<b>(1,475,081)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains:</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	859,000	-	859,000	9,187,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>60,844</b>	<b>847,994</b>	<b>2,881,638</b>	<b>3,790,476</b>	<b>7,711,919</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		179,666	(663,218)	8,283,011	7,799,459	87,540
Net movement in funds		60,844	847,994	2,881,638	3,790,476	7,711,919
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>240,510</b>	<b>184,776</b>	<b>11,164,649</b>	<b>11,589,935</b>	<b>7,799,459</b>

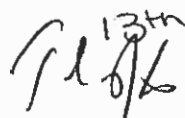
The notes on pages 26 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07706726**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	11,125,312	8,283,011
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	349,992	514,664
Cash at bank and in hand		1,513,875	1,083,028
		<u>1,863,867</u>	<u>1,597,692</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(217,244)	(194,244)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,646,623</u>	<u>1,403,448</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>12,771,935</u>	<u>9,686,459</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21	(1,182,000)	(1,887,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>11,589,935</u></u>	<u><u>7,799,459</u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	15	11,164,649	8,283,011
Restricted income funds	15	1,366,776	1,223,782
		<u>12,531,425</u>	<u>9,506,793</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	15	12,531,425	9,506,793
Pension reserve	15	(1,182,000)	(1,887,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	15	<u>11,349,425</u>	<u>7,619,793</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15	<u>240,510</u>	<u>179,666</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>11,589,935</u></u>	<u><u>7,799,459</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 23 to 52 were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf by:

*13th December 2023*  


**J Loftus**  
 (Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 26 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	548,983	115,138
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	18	(118,136)	(69,283)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		430,847	45,855
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,083,028	1,037,173
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	19, 20	<u>1,513,875</u>	<u>1,083,028</u>

The notes on pages 26 to 52 form part of these financial statements

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. 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.

**1.1 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 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2 Charity status**

The principal activity of the trust is the special educational provision for one or more categories of Special Educational Needs. The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt Charitable Company (Company number: 07706726.) It is incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The address of the registered office is The Avenue School Special Needs Academy Trust, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 4BZ.

The Avenue Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined in FRS 102.

**1.3 Going concern**

The Governors 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 Governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy 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.



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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 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.

- **Sponsorship income**

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

**1.5 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.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 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.

**1.6 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.

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 0.8% - 2%
Plant, Fixtures, fittings, computer equipment and vehicles	- 10% - 33%
Building improvements	- 10%

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 (incorporating income and expenditure account).

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.8 Debtors**

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

**1.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**1.10 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.

**1.11 Provisions**

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

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

**1.12 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 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 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.

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

**1.14 Fund accounting**

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

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.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The asset values are reported using estimated asset allocations prepared by the scheme Actuary. The asset value is calculated at each triennial valuation. Thereafter it is rolled forward to accounting dates using investment returns, contributions received, and benefits paid out. During each annual reporting period between triennial valuations, asset returns are estimated using 11 months of market experience and 1 month of projected experience.

The Governors consider that there are no additional material judgements in applying accounting policies or key sources of estimation uncertainty.



**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Donations	2,900	3,011,133	<b>3,014,033</b>
DFE / ESFA Capital Grants	-	39,337	<b>39,337</b>
	<u>2,900</u>	<u>3,050,470</u>	<u><b>3,053,370</b></u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Other Donations	282	-	282
DFE / ESFA Capital Grants	-	12,758	12,758
	<u>282</u>	<u>12,758</u>	<u>13,040</u>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,952,245	1,952,245
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	3,598	3,598
Pupil Premium	-	93,319	93,319
Other	-	127,531	127,531
	-	2,176,693	2,176,693
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local Authority Grant	-	4,739,168	4,739,168
	-	4,739,168	4,739,168
<b>Other income from the academy's educational operations</b>	28,081	-	28,081
	28,081	6,915,861	6,943,942
	28,081	6,915,861	6,943,942

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**4. Funding for the academy's educational operations (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,750,000	1,750,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	1,672	1,672
Pupil Premium	-	70,056	70,056
Other	-	48,257	48,257
	<hr/> -	<hr/> 1,869,985	<hr/> 1,869,985
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local Authority Funding	-	4,404,454	4,404,454
	<hr/> -	<hr/> 4,404,454	<hr/> 4,404,454
<b>Other income from the academy's educational operations</b>	21,243	-	21,243
	<hr/> 21,243	<hr/> 6,274,439	<hr/> 6,295,682
	<hr/> <hr/> 21,243	<hr/> <hr/> 6,274,439	<hr/> <hr/> 6,295,682

*In addition the school was donated 48 laptops at a value of £9,030 from the DfE. Given they are below the capitalisation threshold these items have not been included within the financial statements on the grounds of immateriality.*

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Charity Trading Income</b>		
Sundry Lettings and Hire of Facilities	76,625	76,625
Sundry income	66,177	66,177
Receipts from supply teacher insurance claims	26,954	26,954
	<u>169,756</u>	<u>169,756</u>
<b>Fundraising Trading Expenses</b>		
Raising Funds	-	-
	<u>169,756</u>	<u>169,756</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Charity Trading Income</b>			
Sundry Lettings and Hire of Facilities	69,770	-	69,770
Sundry income	12,566	-	12,566
Receipts from supply teacher insurance claims	14,888	-	14,888
	<u>97,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,224</u>
<b>Fundraising Trading Expenses</b>			
Raising Funds	-	(1,602)	(1,602)
	<u>97,224</u>	<u>(1,602)</u>	<u>95,622</u>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**6. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Premises 2023 £</b>	<b>Other 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	3,237	<b>3,237</b>
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	5,266,192	69,423	453,308	<b>5,788,923</b>
Allocated support costs	872,884	304,133	188,520	<b>1,365,537</b>
Other trading activities:				
Allocated support costs	-	-	46,916	<b>46,916</b>
	<u>6,139,076</u>	<u>373,556</u>	<u>691,981</u>	<u><b>7,204,613</b></u>
	<b>Staff Costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Premises 2022 £</b>	<b>Other 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	1,602	<b>1,602</b>
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	4,980,098	208,089	226,279	<b>5,414,466</b>
Allocated support costs	1,876,065	269,446	291,312	<b>2,436,823</b>
Other trading activities:				
Allocated support costs	-	-	28,259	<b>28,259</b>
	<u>6,856,163</u>	<u>477,535</u>	<u>547,452</u>	<u><b>7,881,150</b></u>



**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Academy's educational operations	5,788,923	1,365,537	<b>7,154,460</b>
Other trading activities	-	46,916	<b>46,916</b>
	<u>5,788,923</u>	<u>1,412,453</u>	<u><b>7,201,376</b></u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Academy's educational operations	5,414,466	2,436,823	7,851,289
Other trading activities	-	28,259	28,259
	<u>5,414,466</u>	<u>2,465,082</u>	<u>7,879,548</u>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Staff costs	867,884	1,876,065
Depreciation	304,133	269,446
Legal costs	67,118	43,627
Technology costs	35,703	43,856
Other support costs	118,227	217,208
Governance costs	19,388	14,880
	<u><u>1,412,453</u></u>	<u><u>2,465,082</u></u>

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

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	304,133	269,446
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	14,790	13,150
- other services	2,630	2,395
	<u><u>14,790</u></u>	<u><u>13,150</u></u>

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**9. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	4,670,059	4,409,182
Social security costs	330,729	294,643
Pension costs	1,133,288	2,152,338
	<u>6,134,076</u>	<u>6,856,163</u>

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	34	30
Administration and support	182	170
Management	7	8
	<u>223</u>	<u>208</u>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**9. Staff (continued)**

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-

Three of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2023 pension contributions were £55,604 (2022: £35,836).

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the Governors 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 £676,846 (2022: £729,817).

**10. Governors' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Governors 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 Governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023 £	2022 £
S Cooke, Head Teacher	Remuneration	90,000 - 95,000	80,000 - 85,000
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	15,000 - 20,000

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Governor expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

**11. Governors' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £19,915 (2022: £15,271). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £	Building improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	10,061,770	231,625	591,760	104,074	10,989,229
Additions	-	2,988,792	157,642	-	3,146,434
At 31 August 2023	10,061,770	3,220,417	749,402	104,074	14,135,663
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	2,079,376	107,849	422,269	96,724	2,706,218
Charge for the year	211,098	40,043	50,987	2,005	304,133
At 31 August 2023	2,290,474	147,892	473,256	98,729	3,010,351
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2023	7,771,296	3,072,525	276,146	5,345	11,125,312
At 31 August 2022	7,982,394	123,776	169,491	7,350	8,283,011



**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**13. Debtors**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	243,310	396,937
Other debtors	91,612	105,328
Prepayments and accrued income	15,070	12,399
	<u>349,992</u>	<u>514,664</u>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	56,781	28,654
Other creditors	5,383	5,383
Accruals and deferred income	155,080	160,207
	<u>217,244</u>	<u>194,244</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance in respect of free school meals £Nil (2022: £Nil).

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**15. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	179,666	169,758	(108,914)	-	-	240,510
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
GAG	-	1,952,245	(1,952,245)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	3,598	(3,598)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	93,319	(93,319)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA	-	127,531	(127,531)	-	-	-
Local authority	1,223,782	4,739,168	(4,460,873)	(135,301)	-	1,366,776
LGPS deficit fund	(1,887,000)	-	(154,000)	-	859,000	(1,182,000)
	(663,218)	6,915,861	(6,791,566)	(135,301)	859,000	184,776
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Inherited Fixed asset fund	8,283,011	3,011,133	(304,133)	135,301	-	11,125,312
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	39,337	-	-	-	39,337
	8,283,011	3,050,470	(304,133)	135,301	-	11,164,649
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	7,619,793	9,966,331	(7,095,699)	-	859,000	11,349,425
<b>Total funds</b>	7,799,459	10,136,089	(7,204,613)	-	859,000	11,589,935

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the Academy via the Education Funding Agency by the Department for Education. The General Annual Grant Fund has been set up because the GAG must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy.

The fixed assets fund was set up to recognise the tangible assets gifted to the Academy upon conversion which represents the school site including the freehold and long leasehold land and buildings and all material items of plant and machinery included therein. It also includes all fixed assets subsequently purchased by way of grants and other funding. Transfers from the Restricted General Fund represents capital additions purchased from GAG income.

The LGPS deficit fund has been created to separately identify the pension deficit inherited from the local authority upon conversion to academy status and through which all the pension scheme movements are recognised.

Other DfE/ESFA grants including the pupil premium fund has been set up to manage the restricted pupil premium income received for the purposes of supporting children who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. The relevant expenditure incurred is recorded through this fund. Other funding includes the PE grant.

The other restricted income fund has been created to recognise all sundry sources of restricted income from various sources that are individually immaterial in value. The relevant expenditure is then also recorded through this fund.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	164,902	118,872	(104,108)	-	-	179,666
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
GAG	-	1,750,000	(1,750,000)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	1,672	(1,672)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	70,414	(70,414)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA	-	47,899	(47,899)	-	-	-
Local authority	1,130,345	4,298,999	(4,136,156)	(69,406)	-	1,223,782
Growth fund	-	105,455	(105,455)	-	-	-
LGPS deficit fund	(9,678,000)	-	(1,396,000)	-	9,187,000	(1,887,000)
	<u>(8,547,655)</u>	<u>6,274,439</u>	<u>(7,507,596)</u>	<u>(69,406)</u>	<u>9,187,000</u>	<u>(663,218)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Inherited Fixed asset fund	8,470,293	-	(269,446)	82,164	-	8,283,011
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	12,758	-	(12,758)	-	-
	<u>8,470,293</u>	<u>12,758</u>	<u>(269,446)</u>	<u>69,406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,283,011</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>(77,362)</u>	<u>6,287,197</u>	<u>(7,777,042)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,187,000</u>	<u>7,619,793</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>87,540</u>	<u>6,406,069</u>	<u>(7,881,150)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,187,000</u>	<u>7,799,459</u>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,125,312	11,125,312
Current assets	240,510	1,584,020	39,337	1,863,867
Creditors due within one year	-	(217,244)	-	(217,244)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,182,000)	-	(1,182,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>240,510</u>	<u>184,776</u>	<u>11,164,649</u>	<u>11,589,935</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,283,011	8,283,011
Current assets	179,666	1,418,026	-	1,597,692
Creditors due within one year	-	(194,244)	-	(194,244)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,887,000)	-	(1,887,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>179,666</u>	<u>(663,218)</u>	<u>8,283,011</u>	<u>7,799,459</u>



**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	2,931,476	(1,475,081)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	304,133	269,446
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(39,337)	(12,758)
Interest receivable	(169)	(123)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	85,000	1,232,000
Defined benefit pension scheme admin finance cost	69,000	164,000
Donated Fixed Assets	(2,988,792)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	164,672	(150,811)
Increase in creditors	23,000	88,465
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>548,983</b>	<b>115,138</b>

**18. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	169	123
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(157,642)	(82,164)
Capital grants from DfE Group	39,337	12,758
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(118,136)</b>	<b>(69,283)</b>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,513,875	1,083,028
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,513,875</b>	<b>1,083,028</b>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,083,028	430,847	1,513,875
	<u>1,083,028</u>	<u>430,847</u>	<u>1,513,875</u>

**21. 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 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report was published in October 2023. The latest actuarial valuation of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £300,297 (2022: £310,814) and at the year-end £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report was published in October 2023.

Following the McCloud judgement, the remedy proposed that when benefits become payable, eligible members can select to receive them from either the reformed or legacy schemes for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. The actuaries have assumed that members are likely to choose the option that provides them with the greater benefits, and in preparing the 2020 valuation have valued the 'greater value' benefits for groups of relevant members.

The valuation confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 23.6% to 28.6% from 1 April 2024. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 28.68%.

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £949,000 (2022 - £782,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £748,000 (2022 - £608,000) and employees' contributions totalled £201,000 (2022 - £174,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5 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.

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.90</b>	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.90</b>	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.30</b>	4.20

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>20.7</b>	21.0
Females	<b>23.6</b>	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>22</b>	22.3
Females	<b>25</b>	25.3

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Discount rate +0.1%	7,267	7,247
Discount rate -0.1%	7,632	7,696
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	7,652	7,700
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	7,246	7,243

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equities	4,252,000	3,492,000
Corporate bonds	799,000	862,000
Property	628,000	747,000
Cash and other liquid assets	49,000	94,000
Target return portfolio	-	8,000
Infrastructure	845,000	605,000
Longevity insurance	(309,000)	(227,000)
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>6,264,000</b>	<b>5,581,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £(18,000) (2022 - £320,000).

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Service cost	801,000	1,840,000
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	64,000	159,000
Administrative expenses	5,000	5,000
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>870,000</b>	<b>2,004,000</b>

**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>7,468,000</b>	<b>14,250,000</b>
Current service cost	801,000	1,840,000
Interest cost	316,000	243,000
Employee contributions	225,000	174,000
Actuarial gains	(1,266,000)	(8,951,000)
Benefits paid	(98,000)	(88,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>7,446,000</b>	<b>7,468,000</b>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>5,581,000</b>	<b>4,572,000</b>
Interest income	252,000	84,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(407,000)	236,000
Employee contributions	225,000	174,000
Benefits paid	(98,000)	(88,000)
Employer contributions	716,000	608,000
Admin expenses	(5,000)	(5,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>6,264,000</b>	<b>5,581,000</b>

**22. 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.

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**THE AVENUE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**23. Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the academy and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the governors 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.

A Green, spouse of T Green, a member of senior management, is employed by the academy trust as a development officer. A Green's appointment was made in open competition and T Green was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. A Green is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a senior management employee.

Close family members of key management personnel received remuneration of £38,370 (2022: £35,949).

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.