
THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	The Clifton Catholic Diocesan Education Foundation D R Lang L M Murray M Cox (appointed 1 September 2022)
Trustees	Dr D Doyle, Chief Executive I Izuka, Vice Chair P Jacobs D Jones (appointed 20 March 2023) A Rolls, Chair of Trustees C Baggs (resigned 20 September 2023) P Dwyer (resigned 19 December 2022) J Rogers, Vice Chair (deceased 27 September 2022) C Stansfield (resigned 31 October 2022) Robert Stewart (appointed 20 November 2023) Chisa Onyejekwe (appointed 23 November 2023)
Company registered number	13306140
Company name	The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust
Principal and registered office	Alexander House 160 Pennywell Road Bristol BS5 0TX
Company secretary	G Speed (appointed 15 November 2023) E Vaughan (resigned 15 November 2023)
Chief Executive Officer	Dr D Doyle
Senior management team	Dr D Doyle, Chief Executive Officer K Bowgin, Chief Financial Officer
Independent auditors	Randall & Payne LLP Chartered Accountants Shurdington Road Cheltenham Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 4GA

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Bankers

Natwest
Bristol City Centre
45/49 Broadmead
Bristol
BS51 3EU

Solicitors

Stone King
Broad Quay House
Broad Quay
Bristol
BS1 4DJ

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Multi-Academy Trust operates 4 primary academies in the Diocese of Clifton, providing free Catholic education for pupils of varying abilities. The academies have a combined pupil capacity of 840 and had a roll of 706 in the school census in May 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

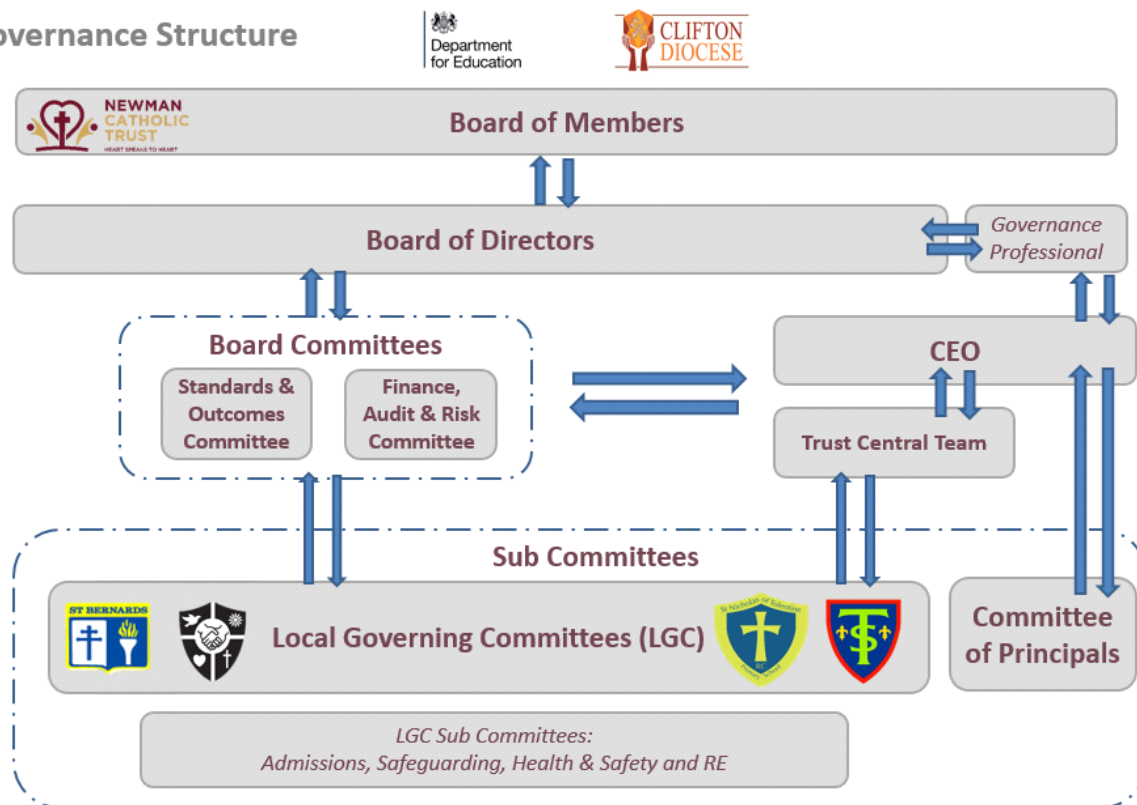
The Trust was incorporated March 1st, 2022. The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

Our structure is set out below and outlines the reporting and accountability lines across the Trust.

Governance Structure



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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Trust is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Trust deed. Trustees are appointed in line with the Articles of Association and the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint such number of Foundation Trustees as shall ensure that at all times the number of Foundation Trustees exceeds the other Trustees by at least two.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who serves as ex-officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When considering the appointment of new Trustees, the Board take into account the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees, in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development and meet its responsibilities.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience and will include a tour of the academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role. An induction pack has been developed and implemented this year for any newly appointed Trustees. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Diocese, the Local Authority and other bodies.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets six times a year (once every short term). The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports and policies from its committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks which would be time limited.

In the period, the Trust comprised of four Primary Academies:

- a. St Bernard's Catholic Primary School,
- b. St Francis' Catholic Primary School,
- c. St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School (joined the Trust on 1 April 2023),
- d. St Teresa's Catholic Primary School.

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Academies have their own Local Governing Committee (LGC) responsible for governance as set out in the Scheme of Delegation, and oversight of the academy operations and local scrutiny of the academy's budget on behalf of the Trustees. The LGCs are also tasked with monitoring the implementation and progress of each academy's School Improvement Plan and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. A link director from the Board has been appointed to each academy to support the LGC, enable monitoring and provide two-way communication. Parallel arrangements will be put in place for all future academies.

During the period under review, the Trust Board operated 2 sub-committees, a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and a Standards and Outcomes Committee.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees; to consider any proposals for change to the status or constitution of an academy and its LGC/sub-committee structure; to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair of the LGC; the appointment of the Senior Leadership of each academy; to approve the annual plan and budget of each academy.

The Trustees are responsible for; setting general policy; adopting an annual plan and budget; approving the statutory accounts; monitoring each academy by the use of budgets and other data; and making major decisions about the direction of each academy, including its capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Trustees have devolved their responsibility for day-to-day leadership and management of the academies, within the Scheme of Delegation to the Principals, SLT, supported and challenged by the LGC at the local level on behalf of the Board of Trustees, details of which can be found on each academy's website. Each academy implements the Board's policies and reports back to the Trustees on performance.

The senior leadership team of the Trust comprises the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Daniel Doyle, is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trustees and the executive leadership team comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year, except for Dr D Doyle for his role as Chief Executive Officer.

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings but also taking account of performance and any change in responsibilities.

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

Trade union facility time

Facility Time is the provision of paid or unpaid time off from an employee's normal role to undertake trade union duties and activities as a trade union representative. Under the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, the Trust as a relevant public sector employer is now required to collect and publish, on an annual basis, a range of data in relation to their employees who are trade union representatives.

In 2022/23 the Trust had no employees who were trade union representative (2021/22: none) who spent less than 1% of their time on trade union activities. The total cost of facility time was £0 (0% of the Trust's total pay bill) (2021/22: nil).

Related parties and other connect charities and organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust, except for the Bishop of Clifton who is the ultimate controlling party by virtue of holding the ability to appoint the Board of Trustees.

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and aims of the Trust are restricted to the following; to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Catholic schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum and conducted as Catholic Schools in accordance with the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church from time to time and the doctrinal, social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church from time to time and following directives and policies issued by the Diocesan Bishop to ensure that the formation, governance and education of the academies is based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and at all times serving as a witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 were to:

- Secure, preserve and promote Catholic values,
- Advance the Bishop's vision to create a larger Multi-Academy Trust (which included an initial expansion taking on a fourth school (St Nicholas of Tolentine) and forming a Trust expansion strategy for future growth,
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including extra-curricular opportunities,
- Develop pupils as effective learners,
- Ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care.
- Improve the effectiveness of the Multi-Academy Trust by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review,
- Maximise the number of pupils who achieve in line with or above national expectations and ensure each one achieves his/her potential,
- Provide value for money for the taxpayer,
- Comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements,
- Maintain close links with partner schools,
- Develop the Trust's capacity to manage change,
- Conduct the Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust Development Plan is reviewed annually by Trustees.

The current Improvement plan has targets for the year ended 31 August 2024:

- Promote Excellence in Catholic Life and Religious Education across all Academies,
- Develop high quality leadership at all levels throughout the Trust,
- Establish and promote effective financial management and operations at all levels,
- Increase the proportion of children working at the expected standard and at greater depth at the end of KS2 (particularly in writing) ensuring outcomes are at least in line with national,
- Prepare, establish and embed Academy and Trust evaluation formats, policies, practices and personnel to accurately report on Academy and make standards/evaluation,
- Thoroughly prepare Trust policies, accountability structures, working practices to secure establishment practice in advance of future expansion.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Public benefit

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

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Trust has demonstrated effective performance during its second year of operation (2022/23: period from 1st March 2022 to 31st August 2022). Operating within budget, it successfully consolidated its surplus, earmarked for future development work. This includes initiatives aimed at enhancing resources for teaching and learning, as well as addressing deficits resulting from recent economic changes, increased expenditure, rising inflation, and a decline in pupil numbers at St Francis and St Nicholas. A paramount focus for the Trust remains the elevation of standards and addressing the two "Inadequate" inspection judgments at St Nicholas and St Francis.

Collaboration and Educational Excellence:

Collaboration between our schools remains one of our biggest strengths and this collaboration has a firm aim of improving the quality of education for all pupils. School improvement processes within the Trust have evolved significantly, playing an instrumental role in raising standards and fostering best practices. The commitment to elevating standards is evident through meticulously planned trust-wide strategies, including monthly Principals' Committee meetings, peer-to-peer school improvement visits, regular sharing of best practices, and strategic coordination of staff across Trust schools.

School Improvement Framework:

The Trust has implemented a robust School Improvement Framework to address leadership issues, school standards, and performance in its schools, particularly targeting its "Inadequate" schools. Leaders, working in collaboration with the CEO and external School Improvement Partner, are implementing a rigorous school improvement schedule aligned with the Trust's strategic calendar of activities. This systematic approach enables comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of school improvement, promoting meaningful collaboration. Noteworthy achievements include significant improvements in student outcomes (particularly at St Francis), positive CSI inspection results for St Nicholas (who receive 7 "Good" judgements out of a total 9 parameters) and St Teresa's (who completed the Diocese's first trial CSI inspection), and a successful completion of an ungraded Ofsted inspection at St Teresa's (who therefore maintain their "Outstanding" judgement).

Leadership Strengthening:

Emphasising strong, secure, and sustainable leadership, the Trust has filled all leadership vacancies and made strategic appointments across its schools. There are no leadership vacancies within the Trust and the Trust has also established network leaders and begun to develop additional professional pathways and opportunities. Recruitment for this year included appointing an Executive Principal (over St Francis and St Teresa's), a Head of School (St Francis) a substantive Principal and Vice Principal (St Nicholas) and a substantive Vice Principal and acting Key Stage Lead (St Bernard's).

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Student Development and Community Contribution:

When considering the performance of our schools, the Trust believes it is important to take into account the opportunities offered to students to enable them to develop as people and have a wider contribution to the Trust and its communities. The Trust has initiated cross-trust pupil collaborative groups, such as Trust Chaplaincy Team meetings, School Council links, and trust-wide charity initiatives. The Jonathan Rogers' Scholarship Award has been introduced to honour a founding Director who suddenly passed away and recognise outstanding individuals who demonstrate commitment and care to the community.

Infrastructure and Project Completion:

The Trust has also completed several significant conditions improvement projects which have addressed a historic safeguarding issue at St Nicholas – where EYFS and Y1 pupils, housed in a separate building from the main school – now have a secure and dedicated entrance to access the main building for resources, lunchtimes, assemblies and learning. The Trust also complete an Environment Improvement Grant at St Nicholas as well as a CIF project to correct historic issues with drainage.

Strategic Integration:

The Trust's performance is evaluated based on pupil outcomes and successes, aligning with the financing of academies and Trust development plan objectives. Key headline figures underscore the strong correlation between financial management and Trust objectives.

Vision, Mission, and Values Integration:

This year, the Trust Board published the Trust's Vision, Mission, and Values, which are now being integrated into trust-wide policies and practices. Additionally, a set of strategic objectives has been developed, accompanied by a progress monitoring system.

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Results

Attainment Headlines:									
	St Bernard's		St Francis		St Nicholas		St Teresa's		Trust Summary
National statistics	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	22/23

EYFS and Key Stage 1 Outcomes:									
GLD:	51%	64%	66%	62%	-	43%	60%	67%	59%
Y1 Phonics SC Y1: %	72%	79%	83%	68%	-	60%	60%	83%	73%
Y2 Phonics check: %	100%	63%	0%	75%	-	80%	28%	75%	73%
Percentage at expected standard and 'greater' depth Y2									
Reading:	81% (22%)	79% (17%)	83% (21%)	73% (19%)	-	25% (0%)	73% (10%)	53% (23%)	58% (15%)
Writing:	67% (7%)	72% (17%)	50% (0%)	62% (8%)	-	10% (0%)	66% (10%)	56% (3%)	50% (7%)
Mathematics:	78% (22%)	72% (21%)	63% (2%)	73% (12%)	-	25% (10%)	86% (13%)	70% (36%)	60% (20%)
Science:	100%	86%	83% (13%)	96% (8%)	-	75% (0%)	96%	79%	
Key Stage 2 Outcomes: Percentage at expected standard Y6									
Reading:	76%	82%	86%	97%	-	40%	93%	79%	75%
Writing:	79%	65%	62%	83%	-	50%	77%	76%	69%
GPS:	79%	79%	86%	80%	-	40%	86%	75%	69%
Mathematics:	76%	79%	83%	86%	-	20%	86%	79%	66%
Combined RWM:	66%	61%	59%	86%	-	14%	73%	69%	58%
Science:	76%	75%	100%	90%	-	38%	93%	93%	74%
% higher standard Y6 (indicative as not released until November):									
Reading:	28%	43%	41%	69%	-	13%	40%	34%	40%
Writing:	3%	0%	0%	10%	-	0%	3%	10%	5%
GPS:	28%	29%	35%	43%	-	7%	50%	44%	31%
Mathematics:	28%	14%	10%	24%	-	0%	46%	41%	20%
Combined RWM:	3%	0%	0%	3%	-	0%	26%	7%	3%

Key performance indicators

The key financial performance indicator for this financial period is the total spend compared to budget. The Trustees aim to fully utilise the school budget share of the General Annual Grant (GAG) funding, on the pupils. Other financial KPIs used in the period under review include staff costs as a percentage of totals costs, per pupil costs measures and per pupil income measures. These KPIs are shared termly with LGCs and school leaders alongside trust-wide benchmarking analysis and school resource management analysis. These KPIs are used as part of our termly financial review meetings to scrutinise expenditure and maximise efficiencies. Further KPIs will be developed as the Trust expands and this will be developed to include future schools.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the 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.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Financial review

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

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

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £3,835,883 (excluding pension and fixed asset funds) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE and other incoming resources of £4,202,678, and a transfer between funds of £6,722. The in-year surplus of restricted funds (excluding pension reserve) and unrestricted funds was £360,073.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £580,211 and movements in tangible fixed assets are showing in note 14 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively to provide education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity, with details in Note 26 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Headteachers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

Progress in setting up Financial Systems:

The Trust has established key financial systems and processes which are enabling effective operational monitoring and management. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR Committee) has been meeting on a half-termly basis and overseeing due diligence in the management of the Trust's funds. The Trust has established all required statutory policies linked to financial management and is working closely across all sites to embed the policies as consistent and effective practice. The Trust has implemented and established budget monitoring and financial processing systems across all its academies. This will ensure consistency in adhering to the Financial Scheme of Delegation and Trust policies, as well as, providing full oversight of all Trust expenditure and financial controls.

The Trust is currently navigating significant financial challenges that are impacting the budgets of all academies. These challenges encompass partially funded teacher and support staff pay awards, substantial increases in utilities expenditure, and rising general costs due to inflation. These pressures, when applied to budgets, have led to numerous financial difficulties across schools, with three schools forecasting a deficit in the medium to long term.

In response to these financial challenges, the CEO and CFO have undertaken a comprehensive reforecasting and restructuring of all Academy budgets. The primary objective is to maximise financial efficiency and reduce expenditure. Furthermore, the Trust is centralising services where possible, renegotiating major supplier contracts, and leveraging the benefits of collective procurement. To enhance financial monitoring, the Trust has increased efforts to minimise wastage and unnecessary expenditure. This includes revising expenditure authorisation limits to provide the Trust Central Team with greater control and oversight of all academies' spending. This ongoing process involves continuous engagement between the CEO & CFO, Principals, Local Governing Committees, and regular progress updates to the Trust board.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Pupil Numbers:

While St Bernard's and St Teresa's boast strong pupil numbers, St Nicholas and Francis face challenges in this regard. Following the 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgment for St Francis (before joining the Trust), the Academy witnessed a significant drop in pupil numbers, resulting in decreased income and a precarious financial position. The Academy is currently operating with a substantial deficit budget, necessitating support from Trust reserves to maintain existing provision. To instigate positive change, the Trust has implemented an Executive Principal model, deploying an experienced Principal from the Trust's 'Outstanding' Academy to inspire confidence among parents and drive rapid school improvement. A new Head of School has also been appointed.

Similarly, St Nicholas is experiencing a shortfall below its published admission numbers. The Trust has actively communicated the change in leadership, improvements in standards, and the unique offerings of the school to the community. To address the situation, the Trust restructured staffing at St Nicholas, significantly reducing costs and averting planned redundancies. The Trust has based its offices in St Nicholas to provide additional capacity.

For 2023/24, in both schools, there will be an increased focus on marketing, supported by an allocated budget, aims to enhance activities and promotion. Targeted marketing campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness of the Academy within communities, emphasising open spaces and unique selling points. Collaboration with an external Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) specialist is in place to develop tailored action plans for each Academy, fostering improved standards and appealing to prospective parents.

Reserves policy

Reserves are defined by the Trustees as that part of the Company's restricted GAG and unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the Academy's purposes.

Any reserves held are in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Master Funding Agreement and by the Education Funding Agency. The Trustees will review the level of reserves and policy for reserves annually. The appropriate level of reserves is determined by the Trustees and will fluctuate depending on operational needs. The Trustees seek to ensure that reserves do not tie up money unnecessarily, thus limiting the amount spent on activities and reducing the potential benefits the Trust can provide. However, they recognise that, if reserves are too low, then the Trust's solvency and its future activities can be put at risk.

The Academy's current level of restricted GAG reserves and unrestricted reserves is £839,973.

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

Investment policy

As a Catholic Trust, all investment considerations are made in line with the ethical and environmental standards upheld by the Catholic Church. Board of Trustee approval is required prior to any investment activity taking place. It is the role of the Board to ensure that the investments are made for a period of time that is supportive of the development of the Trust and in line with the Trustees accepted ethical standard.

Principal risks and uncertainties

An analysis of potential risks has been undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees and the risks are monitored by the CEO & Accounting Officer alongside the Finance Audit & Risk Committee – supported by the Risk Working Group. All potential risks are identified and reported in the risk register and reviewed annually. This has also been the focus of internal scrutiny checks as part of the Trust's internal audits.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the ESFA. The Academies' revenue is ultimately public funded, and this level of requirement is expected to continue with all funding from this source. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

This risk is mitigated through the following strategies:

- Increasing/maintaining pupil numbers as appropriate,
- Identifying and accessing additional funding streams,
- Providing high-quality education and addressing legacy "Inadequate" inspection outcomes at St Francis and St Nicholas,
- Effective financial management.

Governance and/or management – the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks. Another risk linked to governance is an insufficient number of Trustees with the right mix of relevant skills. In Terms 1 and 2, one director passed away and two directors resigned. In term 5 a new director was appointed. The Board and Diocese continued to seek additional Trustees and to consider different attraction methods. The Board has struggled to appoint any directors with an educational background and has been relying on support from the Diocesan Director of Schools and Colleges to cover this gap. This has recently changed with the post year end appointment of two educationalists to the Board. This will provide added capacity and much needed expertise for the 2023/24 academic year.

Fundraising

Fundraising activities contribute only a small proportion of the Trust's income. This activity is led primarily through connected Parent Teacher Association or Parent, Teacher and Friends Association for each of the academies in the Trust, or through activities led by the Local Governing Committees. The Trust does not utilise any professional fundraisers to act on its behalf.

The events are focussed on activities that are of interest and benefit to each academy or local community. These activities are small in scale and usually focus on fundraising for specific named items.

Plans for future periods

1. Trust Expansion and Financial Sustainability:

- Continue the pursuit of Trust expansion, aiming to achieve a pupil size of 3000, including the establishment of a secondary academy.
- Implement strategies to secure financial sustainability, exploring new funding streams and investment opportunities.

2. Pupil Achievement:

- Enhance student outcomes by leveraging external improvement advisers and subject network leads.
- Implement continuous improvement strategies to address specific areas of academic growth.
- Prioritise staff development initiatives to foster a culture of continuous learning.
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices among academies to elevate overall pupil achievement.

3. Resources Optimisation:

- Identify and pursue income and bid funding opportunities to maximise financial inflow into the Trust.
- Ensure effective utilisation of all assets held within the Trust to optimise value and generate additional income.

4. Teaching and Learning Excellence:

- Further develop and enhance outstanding teaching practices within the Trust.
- Implement initiatives to raise school standards, emphasising a commitment to continuous improvement in teaching and learning.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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5. Estate Development:

- Focus on the development of Academy sites to ensure efficient management under the Trust's Estates Management Systems.
- Strategically plan for improving and developing the estate management strategy, that aligns with the long-term vision of the Trust and its expansion.

6. Safeguarding Compliance:

- Further build on the strong safeguarding practices across the Trust to ensure the continued security and safety of all pupils, aligning with the most recent safeguarding recommendations and further securing best practice.

7. Central Leadership Team Establishment:

- Continue the establishment and consolidation of the Central Leadership Team.
- Enable the team to grow the Trust through effective strategies and collaborative leadership initiatives.

8. Collaborative Learning Networks:

- Foster collaborative learning networks among academies to encourage the exchange of ideas, resources, and best practices.
- Establish subject-specific communities of practice to enhance expertise and innovation in teaching.

9. Community Engagement:

- Strengthen ties with the local community, fostering positive relationships and partnerships.
- Implement initiatives to enhance community awareness and involvement in the Trust's educational mission.

10. Technology Integration:

- Explore and implement technology solutions to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes.
- Ensure that the Trust remains at the forefront of educational technology trends.

These renewed targets build upon the successes of the previous academic year, reinforcing the commitment to excellence, sustainability, and continuous improvement within the Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

The auditors, Randall & Payne LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

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


.....
[David Boyle \(Dec 8, 2023 14:55 GMT\)](#)

Dr D Doyle

Date: Dec 8, 2023


.....

A Rolls

Dec 7, 2023

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational 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 CEO, 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 Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control to the Board of Trustees.

Governance

The information on governance included here complements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees formally convened 8 times during the period, including one meeting with a specific focus on strategy.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Izuka, Vice Chair (from 28 September 2022)	8	8
A Rolls, Chair of Trustees	8	8
J Rogers (deceased 27 September 2022)	0	0
P Dwyer (resigned 19 December 2022)	1	2
C Stansfield (resigned 31 October 2022)	0	0
A P Jacobs	8	8
C Baggs (resigned 20 September 2023)	8	8
D Jones (appointed 20 March 2023)	2	2
D Doyle, Chief Executive Officer	8	8
Robert Stewart (appointed 20 November 2023)	0	0
Chisa Onyejekwe (appointed 23 November 2023)	0	0

Conflicts of Interest

A register of business and pecuniary interests is in place covering all layers of the governance structure, supporting us in managing any conflicts of interest that may arise. Members, Trustees, and Local Governors also declare any interests that arise during meetings. When a conflict of interest arises, the concerned party may be asked to withdraw from discussions. Any party with a conflict of interest is not permitted to vote on any business related to the area of conflict.

Governance Review

During this accounting period, two Trustees were recruited to the Board, bringing additional skills and knowledge in the areas of Governance, Risk Management, Audit, Finance, and Law. Although appointed on the above dates, they could not assume their roles until all onboarding and DBS checks were complete (in line with Diocesan policy). Additionally, two Trustees resigned for personal reasons, and one Trustee passed away. Governance is a key strategic objective for the MAT Board, and within this is the need to attract and recruit

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

more Directors to the Board with relevant skills, including educationalists. Director succession planning is also a focus. The Diocesan Director of Schools and Colleges has been supporting the Board by attending Board meetings.

To support effective governance and two-way communication, the MAT Board continued to have Link Directors working with Local Governing Committees (LGCs) and to hold a termly Chair's Forum meeting with the Chairs of the LGCs.

The Chair and Vice-Chair also worked with a National Governance Association (NGA) Lead to seek insight and advice on a range of governance matters. The Board of Directors also appointed a Lead Governance Professional who took responsibility for ensuring that full Board and sub-committee meetings were well planned, appropriately resourced, and recorded. She worked alongside the CEO to create a records management structure within the MAT SharePoint system for confidential storage and access to key materials and supported the coordination of director declarations and training. She also coordinated the work of LGC clerks, establishing systems to ensure a consistent approach and effective communication across the MAT LGC meetings. The Lead Governance Professional supported the CEO with the MAT Strategic Calendar, which is a key planning document.

Other key achievements of the Trust during this period included:

- The admission of a fourth primary school (St Nicholas of Tolentine) into the MAT in April 2023
- The establishment of stable school leadership teams at three of our primary schools
- A positive Ofsted Inspection at St Teresa's
- Two positive CSI/Section 48 inspections (one trial inspection under the new framework)
- The establishment of a school improvement system utilising external advisers and MAT network leads
- Significant improvements to school buildings and estates
- The procurement of an alternative HR provider
- The establishment of a set of Board Strategic Objectives
- The review and publication of our MAT Vision, Mission, and Values

Sub-Committees to the Board of Trustees:

The Finance, Audit, and Risk (FAR) Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision-making of the Board of Trustees by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board of Trustees' responsibilities to ensure sound management of the Academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring, and probity. It also incorporates the role of a Risk and Audit Committee to maintain an oversight of the Trust's financial, governance, risk management, and internal control systems to report findings termly and annually to the Trust Board and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the trust's annual reporting requirements. To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. Major issues will be referred to the full Board of Trustees for ratification.

Attendance during the period at FAR meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I C Izuka, Chair of FAR	7	7
A Rolls, Board Chair	7	7
C Baggs (resigned 20 September 2023)	7	7
J R Rogers (deceased 27 September 2022)	0	0
Dr D Doyle, Chief Executive Officer	7	7
K Bowgin, Chief Financial Officer	6	7

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Standards & Outcomes Committee:

The Standards & Outcomes (S&O) Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The aims and objectives of the committee as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation are to:

a. monitor and advise the Board on the performance of each Academy, in relation to:

- i. attainment and achievement,
- ii. Trust and school improvement work,
- iii. overall performance,
- iv. leadership standards,
- v. curriculum quality and compliance,
- vi. governance effectiveness,
- vii. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and inclusion,
- viii. the effective use of additional funds e.g. PP, SEND, Primary PE,
- ix. admissions,
- x. safeguarding arrangements,
- xi. community engagement,
- xii. parental satisfaction.

b. monitor and advise the Board on the overall performance of the Trust, in relation to:

- i. school performance in relation to the identified key performance indicators, with particular attention given to the progress made by pupils and students from starting points in all key stages and their attainment as measured against expected national standards.
- ii. the attendance of pupils and students and the success of strategies employed to improve attendance and address persistent non-attendance.
- iii. performance trends over time, identifying significant changes in performance and emerging risks in relation to future performance.
- iv. the effectiveness of the Trust's quality assurance work and improvement planning.
- v. the effectiveness of the Trust's intervention and school improvement work.

Attendance during the period at Standards and Outcomes meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I C Izuka	2	2
A Rolls	4	4
A Jacobs, Chair of S&O	4	4
P Dwyer (resigned 19 December 2022)	1	1
D Jones (appointed 20 March 2023)	1	1
Dr D Doyle, Chief Executive Officer	4	4

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the Trust (with support from the CFO) has delivered improved value for money during the period by:

- Reforecasting and restructuring all school budgets to maximise financial efficiency and reduce expenditure.
- Implemented effective financial analysis and reporting by completing School Resource Management Analysis and benchmarking analysis of all schools - reporting outcomes and findings to both the Board and LGCs.
- Establishing a system of Continuous Improvement Reviews where budgets, school spends, and financial planning are discussed three times a year.
- Established Financial Efficiency Action Plans for all trust schools and Deficit Recovery Plans for any schools with a deficit budget.
- Improving the quality of leadership and governance through training and CPD – drawing on external advisors and the talents within the Trust team.
- Where possible, centralising services, renegotiating major school contracts, and maximising the benefits of collective procurement.
- Revising the expenditure authorisation limits within schools to ensure the Trust Central Team has greater control and oversight of school expenditure.

As a result of the economy of scale achieved through the renegotiation of contracts and service level agreements, the Trust realised savings in the following areas:

- Facilities management and statutory testing
- Supply cover
- Absence insurance
- Human Resources
- IT software, hardware, and support
- Cleaning contractors and supplies
- Utilities (gas and electricity)
- GDPR support and resources
- Photocopying and printing
- Admin resource e.g. paper supplies

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 has been in place in The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees, the FAR Committee, and the Trust's Risk Working Party.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- The Scheme of Delegation is set and agreed by Members and is reviewed annually.
- The Trust Finance Manual is reviewed annually along with associated policies.
- Termly internal scrutiny audits and checks completed by an appointed external auditor.
- Clearly defined purchasing procedures and protocols.
- Identification and management of risk.
- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports that are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the FAR Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works, and expenditure programs.
- Setting targets to measure financial performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to outsource its internal audit function. Strictly Education Limited was appointed as internal auditors for 2022/23.

Their role includes giving advice and performing a range of checks on the Trust's management and control systems. The check carried out in the current year focused on Risk Management. It included a review of Trust policies and documents covering:

- Business Continuity Planning
- Governance
- Safeguarding

During the period, Strictly Education Limited has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and there were no material control issues as a result of their work.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the ;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

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

A. Rolls

.....
A Rolls
Chair of Trustees

Date: Dec 7, 2023

.....
 [Dec 8, 2023 14:55 GMT](#)

.....
Dr D Doyle
Accounting Officer

Dec 8, 2023

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

..


[David Doyle \(Dec 8, 2023 14:55 GMT\)](#)

Dr D Doyle
Accounting Officer

Date: Dec 8, 2023

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

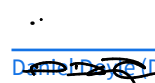
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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


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

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

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

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


.....
Dr D Doyle


.....
A Rolls

Date: Dec 8, 2023

Dec 7, 2023

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust (the 'trust') 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 Trust'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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Our audit planning process gave consideration to the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements, using the calculated materiality level which itself factored in the nature of the Academy's operations and the interpreted levels of inherent and control risk.

In assessing the risk of fraud we reviewed management's own assessment of potential for fraud within the entity and reviewed judgements made by management to identify possible bias, in addition to any opportunity and incentive for fraud that are inherent in the nature of the Academy's operations. Our detailed testing included review of accounting estimates and judgements and validation of prime ledger entries.

We confirmed our knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment of the entity through discussions with management. We analysed all information available to us in respect of relevant laws and regulations, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP, Academy Trust Handbook and relevant UK tax legislation and enquired with management as to any possible breaches in the aforementioned.

We agreed the accuracy of the financial statements to the supporting management information provided by the client and tested individually on a sample basis the income and expenditure in the financial statements to consider the business rationale behind the transactions and the accuracy of the financial records.

Our audit testing did not identify any issues in respect of the matters listed above, including fraud.

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

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

Benjamin Burch ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Randall & Payne LLP

Chartered Accountants

Shurdington Road

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire

GL51 4GA

Date:

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated [enter date here] 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 Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational 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 Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational 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 Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated [enter date here] 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.

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 Trust's income and expenditure.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 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.

Reporting Accountant
Randall & Payne LLP
Chartered Accountants

Date:

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL 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 (6 month period) £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	81,705	(163,546)	403,771	321,930	(1,266,747)
Charitable activities	4	70,282	3,871,237	-	3,941,519	2,037,498
Total income		151,987	3,707,691	403,771	4,263,449	770,751
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	56,307	3,798,576	38,054	3,892,937	1,857,958
Total expenditure		56,307	3,798,576	38,054	3,892,937	1,857,958
Net income/ (expenditure)		95,680	(90,885)	365,717	370,512	(1,087,207)
Transfers between funds	19	-	(6,722)	6,722	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		95,680	(97,607)	372,439	370,512	(1,087,207)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	588,000	-	588,000	1,239,000
Net movement in funds		95,680	490,393	372,439	958,512	151,793
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		158,623	(227,856)	221,026	151,793	-
Net movement in funds		95,680	490,393	372,439	958,512	151,793
Total funds carried forward		254,303	262,537	593,465	1,110,305	151,793

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

The notes on pages 33 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 13306140

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	580,211	204,209
		<u>580,211</u>	<u>204,209</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	473,696	458,376
Cash at bank and in hand		1,240,456	799,144
		<u>1,714,152</u>	<u>1,257,520</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(613,408)	(511,961)
Net current assets		<u>1,100,744</u>	<u>745,559</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,680,955</u>	<u>949,768</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(2,650)	(3,975)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>1,678,305</u>	<u>945,793</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(568,000)	(794,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>1,110,305</u></u>	<u><u>151,793</u></u>
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	593,465	221,026
Restricted income funds	19	830,537	566,144
		<u>1,424,002</u>	<u>787,170</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	1,424,002	787,170
Pension reserve	19	(568,000)	(794,000)
Total restricted funds	19	<u>856,002</u>	<u>(6,830)</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>254,303</u>	<u>158,623</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,110,305</u></u>	<u><u>151,793</u></u>

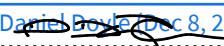
THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 13306140

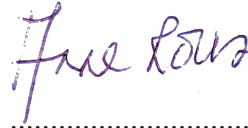
BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The financial statements on pages 28 to 63 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

..


[Daniel Doyle](#) Dec 8, 2023 14:55 GMT
.....
Dr D Doyle


.....
A Rolls

Date: Dec 8, 2023

Dec 7, 2023

The notes on pages 33 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	567,324	1,071,716
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(126,012)	(272,572)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		441,312	799,144
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		799,144	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u>1,240,456</u>	<u>799,144</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 63 form part of these financial statements

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **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.

• **Transfer of existing academies into the Trust**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets acquired.

1.4 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Furniture and equipment	- 10 years straight line
Outdoor equipment	- 10 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line
Site improvements	- 10 years straight line

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.

The Trust occupies land and buildings provided to it by the Diocesan Trustees under a license (also referred to as a Church Supplemental Agreement). Having considered the fact that the Trust occupies the land and buildings by a license that transfers to the Trust no rights or control over the site other than that of occupying it at the will of the Diocesan Trustees under the agreement, it has been concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the Trust will not be recognised or valued within fixed assets.

1.6 Debtors

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

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Liabilities

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.10 Operating leases

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Pensions

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

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The 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 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Donations	3,363	9,828	2,000	15,191	9,645
Capital Grants	-	47,107	276,369	323,476	40,000
Transfers in from Academy and local authority trusts on conversion	78,342	(220,481)	125,402	(16,737)	(1,316,392)
	<u>81,705</u>	<u>(163,546)</u>	<u>403,771</u>	<u>321,930</u>	<u>(1,266,747)</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u><u>157,737</u></u>	<u><u>(1,625,316)</u></u>	<u><u>200,832</u></u>	<u><u>(1,266,747)</u></u>	

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Funding for charitable activities	100	3,853,995	3,854,095	2,003,335
Other income from pupils	66,627	9,266	75,893	34,152
Bank interest	3,104	-	3,104	11
Insurance claims	-	7,296	7,296	-
Other income	451	680	1,131	-
	<u>70,282</u>	<u>3,871,237</u>	<u>3,941,519</u>	<u>2,037,498</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>28,421</u>	<u>2,009,077</u>	<u>2,037,498</u>	

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

5. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Charitable Activities				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,983,425	2,983,425	1,375,440
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
UIFSM	-	77,768	77,768	40,069
Pupil Premium	-	144,889	144,889	44,965
PE & Sports grant	-	60,137	60,137	23,553
DFC	-	23,898	23,898	19,539
NNDR	-	7,018	7,018	-
Schools Supplementary grant	-	81,468	81,468	-
Emergency School Improvement Funding	-	82,475	82,475	-
MAT transfer grant	-	110,000	110,000	-
Trust Capacity Funding	-	-	-	159,885
Recovery Premium	-	15,159	15,159	4,335
Others	-	67,386	67,386	156,451
	-	3,653,623	3,653,623	1,824,237
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	145,601	145,601	62,197
Other government grants	100	14,091	14,191	116,901
	100	159,692	159,792	179,098
Other income from the Trust's charitable activities				
	-	40,680	40,680	-
	100	3,853,995	3,854,095	2,003,335
<i>Total 2022</i>	-	2,003,335	2,003,335	

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Charitable Activities:					
Direct costs	2,521,508	38,054	235,571	2,795,133	1,129,092
Allocated support costs	486,706	84,767	526,331	1,097,804	728,866
	<u>3,008,214</u>	<u>122,821</u>	<u>761,902</u>	<u>3,892,937</u>	<u>1,857,958</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u><u>1,336,044</u></u>	<u><u>40,165</u></u>	<u><u>481,749</u></u>	<u><u>1,857,958</u></u>	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Charitable Activities	56,307	3,836,630	3,892,937	1,857,958
	<u>56,307</u>	<u>3,836,630</u>	<u>3,892,937</u>	
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u><u>48,957</u></u>	<u><u>1,809,001</u></u>	<u><u>1,857,958</u></u>	

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Charitable Activities	2,795,133	1,097,804	3,892,937	1,857,958
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>1,129,092</u>	<u>728,866</u>	<u>1,857,958</u>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Charitable Activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Pension finance costs	30,000	30,000	13,000
Staff costs	2,521,508	2,521,508	1,028,820
Depreciation	38,054	38,054	11,851
Insurance	12,117	12,117	5,949
Educational supplies	180,657	180,657	60,811
Staff development	12,797	12,797	8,661
	<u>2,795,133</u>	<u>2,795,133</u>	<u>1,129,092</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>1,129,092</u>	<u>1,129,092</u>	

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
Pension finance costs	6,000	6,000	15,000
Staff costs	486,706	486,706	307,224
Recruitment and support	7,116	7,116	583
Premises costs	84,767	84,767	28,314
Cleaning	55,218	55,218	23,734
Rent and rates	14,632	14,632	4,379
Energy	51,109	51,109	31,008
Insurance	20,714	20,714	9,956
Security and transport	3,573	3,573	1,002
Catering	134,851	134,851	53,470
Technology costs	68,893	68,893	23,078
Other costs	91,952	91,952	54,651
Legal and professional	65,522	65,522	173,972
Staff development	5,231	5,231	2,220
Support staff medical fees	1,520	1,520	275
	1,097,804	1,097,804	728,866
	1,097,804	1,097,804	728,866
<i>Total 2022</i>	728,866	728,866	728,866

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023	<i>2022 (6 month period)</i>
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	6,175	1,595
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	38,054	11,851
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	15,215	14,200
- other services	2,305	2,150
	2,305	2,150

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023	<i>2022 (6 month period)</i>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,229,581	921,029
Social security costs	180,049	77,331
Pension costs	507,505	309,730
	2,917,135	1,308,090
Agency staff costs	91,079	27,954
	3,008,214	1,336,044

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	<i>2022 (6 month period) No.</i>
Management	8	5
Teaching Staff	39	26
Support Staff	73	54
	<u>120</u>	<u>85</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	<i>2022 No.</i>
Management	8	5
Teaching Staff	28	21
Support Staff	36	29
	<u>72</u>	<u>55</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	<i>2022 (6 month period) No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £182,709 (3 personnel) (2022 - £72,378 (2 personnel)).

11. Central services

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

- Human Resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- School improvement
- Educational support services
- Health & Safety
- Others as arising

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The charitable company charges for these services on a percentage basis applied to the income received by each constituent academy. In line with Trust policy, central service charges are based on flat 6% (2022: 2.75%) of GAG. Any surplus generated is held as a contingency reserve for use in future periods.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 (6 month period) £
St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	56,327	12,557
St Francis' Catholic Primary School	42,991	10,303
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	60,470	13,509
St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School	19,218	-
Total	179,006	36,369

THE CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2023	<i>2022 (6 month period)</i>
		£	£
Dr D Doyle, Chief Executive	Remuneration	75,000 -	<i>40,000 -</i>
		80,000	<i>45,000</i>
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 -	<i>5,000 -</i>
		20,000	<i>10,000</i>

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 Trustees (2022 - to 2 Trustees) broken down as follows:

		2023	<i>2022 (6 month period)</i>
		£	£
Travel		79	<i>-</i>
Subsistence		36	<i>22</i>
Reimbursement of office equipment expenditure		1,899	<i>2,281</i>
		2,014	<i>2,303</i>
		<u><u>2,014</u></u>	<u><u>2,303</u></u>

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

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14. Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Outdoor equipment £	Computer equipment £	Site improvements £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	184,014	32,046	-	-	216,060
Additions	-	6,765	6,375	284,081	297,221
Acquired on conversion	172,468	-	-	-	172,468
Transfers between classes	(356,482)	-	-	356,482	-
At 31 August 2023	-	38,811	6,375	640,563	685,749
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	11,316	534	-	-	11,850
Charge for the year	34,172	3,882	-	-	38,054
Transfers between classes	(101,123)	-	-	101,123	-
On conversion to an academy and transferred into Trust	55,635	-	-	-	55,635
At 31 August 2023	-	4,416	-	101,123	105,539
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	-	34,395	6,375	539,440	580,210
At 31 August 2022	172,698	31,512	-	-	204,210

The Trust occupies land and buildings provided to it by the Diocesan Trustees under a license (also referred to as a Church Supplemental Agreement). Having considered the fact that the Trust occupies the land and buildings by a license that transfers to the Trust no rights or control over the site other than that of occupying it at the will of the Diocesan Trustees under the agreement, it has been concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the Trust will not be recognised or valued within fixed assets.

The transfers between classes are in relation to items which are considered better presented as site improvements. The same depreciation policy applies.

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15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	14,881	7,666
Other debtors	164,673	202,855
Prepayments and accrued income	294,142	247,855
	473,696	458,376
	473,696	458,376

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	1,325	1,325
Trade creditors	264,298	61,994
Other taxation and social security	49,184	39,830
Other creditors	64,040	136,226
Accruals and deferred income	234,561	272,586
	613,408	511,961
	613,408	511,961
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred DfE revenue grants		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	50,085	-
Resources deferred during the year	51,879	50,085
Amounts released from previous periods	(50,085)	-
	51,879	50,085
	51,879	50,085

Deferred income raised during the period relates to £51,879 (2022: £50,085) ESFA Universal Infant Free School Meals and £2,927 (2022: £2,565) trip income received in advance.

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17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	2,650	3,975

The other loan amount relates to a Salix Loan repayable in six monthly instalments over 5 years with an applicable interest rate of 0%.

18. Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	1,240,456	799,144

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

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19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	158,623	151,987	(56,307)	-	-	254,303
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	327,622	3,099,249	(2,822,706)	(18,495)	-	585,670
Pupil Premium	-	160,047	(160,047)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	77,768	(77,768)	-	-	-
PE & Sports Grant	5,627	60,137	(63,327)	-	-	2,437
NNDR	-	7,018	(7,018)	-	-	-
DFC	13,220	71,005	(11,535)	(10,648)	-	62,042
Other DfE/ESFA Revenue grant	40,880	341,329	(382,209)	-	-	-
High Needs	1,578	145,601	(147,179)	-	-	-
Other Govt Grants	800	12,491	(13,291)	-	-	-
Other Res Funds	176,417	76,046	(94,496)	22,421	-	180,388
Pension reserve	(794,000)	(343,000)	(19,000)	-	588,000	(568,000)
	<u>(227,856)</u>	<u>3,707,691</u>	<u>(3,798,576)</u>	<u>(6,722)</u>	<u>588,000</u>	<u>262,537</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DFC	25,836	8,569	(588)	(8,531)	-	25,286
Other DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	39,667	168,000	(4,000)	-	-	203,667
Transfers from GAG/RES	150,565	69,218	(30,784)	8,753	-	197,752
Donations	4,958	49,615	(2,682)	-	-	51,891
CIF	-	108,369	-	6,500	-	114,869

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19. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
	221,026	403,771	(38,054)	6,722	-	593,465
Total Restricted funds	(6,830)	4,111,462	(3,836,630)	-	588,000	856,002
Total funds	151,793	4,263,449	(3,892,937)	-	588,000	1,110,305

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

Unrestricted funds - represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the Directors.

Restricted fixed asset funds - represents the carrying value of fixed assets that have either been received upon conversion of constituent academies into the Trust or have been purchased from grants received from the ESFA. It also included fixed assets that have been funded by grants from the ESFA plus amounts received which have yet to be spent on future capital projects.

Transfers - represent capital items purchased from GAG and other unrestricted funds offset by revenue expenditure transfers.

Restricted general funds - comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Department for Education and Local Authorities.

Pension Reserve - This represents the Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes, this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was incurred when the schools within the Trust converted to Academy status.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

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19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022</i> £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	186,159	(27,536)	-	-	158,623
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant	1,574,529	(1,214,862)	(32,046)	-	327,621
Pupil Premium	49,299	(49,299)	-	-	-
UIFSM	40,069	(40,069)	-	-	-
PE & Sports Grant	27,720	(22,093)	-	-	5,627
NNDR	1,900	(1,900)	-	-	-
DFC	19,538	(6,318)	-	-	13,220
Other DfE/ESFA Revenue grant	367,351	(326,471)	-	-	40,880
High Needs	61,241	(59,663)	-	-	1,578
Other Govt Grants	957	(157)	-	-	800
Other Res Funds	186,523	(10,106)	-	-	176,417
Pension reserve	(1,909,000)	(124,000)	-	1,239,000	(794,000)
	<u>420,127</u>	<u>(1,854,938)</u>	<u>(32,046)</u>	<u>1,239,000</u>	<u>(227,857)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DFC	25,862	(26)	-	-	25,836
Other DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	40,000	(333)	-	-	39,667
Transfers from GAG/RES	129,969	(11,450)	32,046	-	150,565
Donations	5,000	(42)	-	-	4,958
	<u>200,831</u>	<u>(11,851)</u>	<u>32,046</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,026</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>620,958</u>	<u>(1,866,789)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,239,000</u>	<u>(6,831)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>807,117</u></u>	<u><u>(1,894,325)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,239,000</u></u>	<u><u>151,792</u></u>

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

Total funds analysis by academy

On formation of the Trust and in line with the encouragement of the Department of Education, the Trustees voted to operate a policy of reserves pooling. Therefore, no individual surplus or deficit is allocated at Academy-level, but rather collectively to the Trust.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 (6 month period) £</i>
St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	700,852	140,908	40,835	160,353	1,042,948	495,432
St Francis' Catholic Primary School	592,853	60,159	56,822	235,376	945,210	409,558
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	857,299	155,360	53,170	100,418	1,166,247	567,313
St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School	263,025	67,937	13,731	39,257	383,950	-
Central	107,479	79,342	14,300	96,407	297,528	249,804
FRS102 pension adjustment	-	-	-	19,000	19,000	124,000
Trust	2,521,508	503,706	178,858	650,811	3,854,883	1,846,107

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20. 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	-	-	580,210	580,210
Current assets	254,912	1,401,852	57,388	1,714,152
Creditors due within one year	(609)	(571,316)	(41,482)	(613,407)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(2,650)	(2,650)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(568,000)	-	(568,000)
Total	254,303	262,536	593,466	1,110,305

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	204,210	204,210
Current assets	674,561	566,143	16,816	1,257,520
Creditors due within one year	(511,961)	-	-	(511,961)
Creditors due in more than one year	(3,975)	-	-	(3,975)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(794,000)	-	(794,000)
Total	158,625	(227,857)	221,026	151,794

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Transfer of existing academies into the trust

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants.

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

Transferred-in St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School

	Value reported by transferring trust £	Fair value adjustments £	Transfer in recognised £
Tangible fixed assets			
Furniture and equipment	240,195	(123,362)	116,833
Current assets			
Debtors due within one year	37,466	-	37,466
Cash at bank and in hand	214,732	-	214,732
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	(42,768)	-	(42,768)
Pensions			
Pensions - pension scheme assets	732,000	-	732,000
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	(1,075,000)	-	(1,075,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>106,625</u>	<u>(123,362)</u>	<u>(16,737)</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. 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)	370,512	(1,087,207)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	38,054	94,235
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(284,938)	(25,862)
Interest receivable	(3,104)	(11)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(27,000)	93,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	46,000	31,000
Increase in debtors	(15,320)	(458,376)
Increase in creditors	100,120	515,937
Defined benefit pension liability- assumed on conversion	(732,000)	862,000
Defined benefit pension liability- transfer in of existing academies	1,075,000	1,047,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	567,324	1,071,716

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank interest received	3,104	11
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(297,221)	(298,445)
Capital grants from DfE Group	284,938	25,862
On transfer in of existing academy (net tangible fixed assets)	(116,833)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(126,012)	(272,572)

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,240,456	799,144
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,240,456	799,144

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	799,144	441,312	1,240,456
Debt due within 1 year	(1,325)	-	(1,325)
Debt due after 1 year	(3,975)	1,325	(2,650)
	<u>793,844</u>	<u>442,637</u>	<u>1,236,481</u>

26. Pension commitments

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

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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26. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £251,568 (2022 - £131,035).

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

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

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 £264,000 (2022 - £144,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £217,000 (2022 - £118,000) and employees' contributions totalled £47,000 (2022 - £26,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.6 per cent for employers and 5.5-7.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, 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 Trust 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 an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

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26. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

Mercer

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.35
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.85

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22	23.1
Females	24	25.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.2	24.6
Females	25.7	27.3

Sensitivity analysis

Mercer

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(57)	(49)
Discount rate -0.1%	58	50
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	62	47
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(61)	(46)
CPI rate +0.1%	58	51
CPI rate -0.1%	(57)	(50)

Share of scheme assets

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26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	£000	£000
Equities	870	640
Gilts	539	153
Corporate bonds	231	113
Property	165	113
Cash and other liquid assets	27	5
Other	823	525
Total market value of assets	2,655	1,549

The actual return on scheme assets was £(25,000) (2022 - £(21,000)).

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	195,000	211,000
Interest income	(86,000)	(23,000)
Interest cost	122,000	51,000
Administrative expenses	5,000	3,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	236,000	242,000

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
At 1 September	2,343,000	-
Conversion of academy trusts	-	1,816,000
Current service cost	195,000	211,000
Interest cost	122,000	51,000
Employee contributions	47,000	26,000
Actuarial gains	(528,000)	(1,283,000)
Benefits paid	(31,000)	(9,000)
Liabilities assumed in a business combination	1,075,000	1,531,000
At 31 August	3,223,000	2,343,000

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

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	1,549,000	-
Conversion of academy trusts	343,000	769,000
Interest income	86,000	23,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	60,000	(44,000)
Employer contributions	217,000	118,000
Employee contributions	47,000	26,000
Benefits paid	(31,000)	(9,000)
Assets acquired in a business combination	732,000	669,000
Other item - user input	(5,000)	(3,000)
At 31 August	2,998,000	1,549,000

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	8,939	3,502
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,267	3,798
	13,206	7,300

28. 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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29. Related party transactions

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

During the year The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust entered into transactions with The Diocese of Clifton, an entity under common control. Donations of £NIL (2022: £250) were made to the Trust. Expenses of £3,851 (2022: £67,365) were paid to the Diocese in relation to consultancy, training and masses held. Of this amount, £NIL (2022: £64,500) remained in creditors at year end. All transactions were made under normal commercial terms.

30. Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the Bishop of Clifton by virtue of holding the ability to appoint the majority of the Board of Trustees.