

Company registration number 08693259 (England and Wales)

**SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

E McLeod
M Brayshaw
J Garratt

Trustees

S E Walker (Principal and accounting officer)
T Hill
L Allan (Chair)
G E Bland (Vice chair)
H L Swarbrick
R P Anderson
M Bloomfield
D Leighton
A J Woolf
J Tasker
Dr J McCue (Appointed 2 January 2024)

Team leaders

J Maltby/ E English (shared)
S Campbell
- K Pollitt/E Berriman (shared)
K Duck
E Sayer

Senior management team

- Headteacher S Walker
- Deputy Headteacher L Krywicznanin (Resigned 31 December 2023)
- Deputy Headteacher S Newton (Appointed 01 January 2024) - Acting Accounting Officer
from 11 December 2024
- Assistant Headteacher S Newton (Resigned 31 December 2023)
- Assistant Headteacher N Chapman
- Assistant Headteacher A Woolf
- School Business Manager D Chadwick

Company registration number

08693259 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Station Lane
Skelton
Saltburn-by-the-Sea
TS12 2LR
United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
United Kingdom

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
37 Westgate
Guisborough
TS14 6BD
United Kingdom

Solicitors

BHP Law
Kingfisher House
2 Kingfisher Way
Preston Farm
Stockton-On-Tees
TS18 3EX
United Kingdom

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The academy trust operates Primary School with two Nurseries for pupils aged 3-11 serving a catchment area in East Cleveland. The School has a pupil capacity of 630 and had a roll of 516 in the school census in January 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The trustees of Skelton Primary School are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Skelton Primary School "a primary academy"

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

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, as required in the academy trust's funding agreement/memorandum and articles of association, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Trustee or other officer or auditor of the School trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the School Trust against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The members may appoint up to eight Trustees. In addition to the Trustees Appointed, the members may appoint Staff trustees through such process as they may determine. The total number of Trustees (including the HT) who are employees of the Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. Parent Governors will be elected by Parents of registered pupils at the Trust. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the time when he is elected. In appointing a Parent Governor, the Governing Body shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at the Trust; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Governing Body has a Service Level Agreement with Stockton Local Authority Governing Body Department, who advise Governors and minute meetings. Included in the SLA is a training package for all Trustees. A report is given at each Governing Body meeting on training undertaken.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Organisational structure

The Head Teacher is the Schools Accounting Officer. The School has a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) that is made up of the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Three Assistant Heads and the School Business Manager. The School also has a Management Team that consists of the above plus five Team Leaders. Decisions and developments on the day-to-day running of the School are approved at SLT level in line with the School Improvement Plan. The Governing Body has two sub committees; REF (Resources, Employment & Finance) and Pay which have their own remit. Depending on the committee remit, decisions can be made at subcommittee or full governing body level. All decisions that have a financial implication are made in line with the School's Finance Handbook. The budget is approved by the Full Governing Body. The Governors are responsible for the strategic management of the school; approving and setting key aspects of the school, including strategic direction, Annual budget, recruitment of senior members of staff, policy changes etc. The Head teacher and staff are responsible for the operational management. School policies are developed by senior members of the school staff to reflect both the strategic direction agreed by the Governors and statutory requirements. Policies are approved and adopted by the Governing Body and implemented as procedures by the SLT and Management Team.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Performance of 'Leaders' at all levels will be evaluated against the Head Teacher standards as appropriate for the role. The Head teacher will recommend in line with the school Pay Policy whether the individuals' pay should be increased to the next incremental point within the scale agreed for their post.

In addition, all leaders are expected to perform at Band 3, Expert Teacher.

Head Teacher

New appointments: The REF review the school group in accordance with STPCD and select an indicative 7-point pay range appropriately, to be recorded in the committee minutes. A new Head teacher will usually be placed on a minimum of the established range, however the committee may consider using its discretion to pay at any points within the range or in exceptional circumstances may change the range. Reasons for exceptional circumstances must be recorded.

Head Teacher in post

The Head teacher's Pay range may be reviewed at any time.

A successful review may result in the award of 1 or 2 progression points (within the 7-point range). Where the Head teacher is at the top of their group and Governors determine further pay progression is appropriate the additional payment of up to 25% criteria as in STPCD. Minutes of any decisions should be carefully documented.

Deputy & Assistant Head teacher

DHTs & AHTs should be paid on a salary range, which adequately reflects the levels of duties and responsibilities. At S.P.S., this is a 5-point scale. The pay range should not overlap the HT pay range. A successful review may result in the award of 1 or 2 progression points (within the 5-point range). REF should review the salary scale when a new appointment is made. A new DHT/ AHT will usually be placed on the minimum of the established range however; the committee may consider using its discretion to pay at any points on the range.

Support staff

Support Staff at all levels will be evaluated against the professional standards as appropriate for the role and the relevant Career Stage Expectations. The Head teacher will recommend whether the individuals' pay should be increased to the next incremental point within the scale agreed for their post.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

We have one FTE employee who is a union official appointed summer 2023, he has had no facility time for this period, our total pay bill for the school is £2,341,247

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The School is an associate member of the East Cleveland Co-operative Learning Trust. The Trust meets legal requirements and has exclusively charitable objectives. The Trust is made up of nine maintained schools and ten associate members including primary, secondary and Academies. The Trust has been inactive for the last five years.

The school has a Parent & Teacher Association called Friends of Skelton Primary School. Friends support the School by fundraising and making links with the local community.

As a single Academy, the school works closely within NESTA (North East School Teaching Alliance) supporting with ITT, mentoring at least two student teachers annually. It also collaborates with Prince regent MAT & Ironstone MAT promote staff development and best practice.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The principal object and aim of the Trust is the operation of Skelton Primary School to provide education in a safe secure environment to pupils between 3-11

Objects and Aims

As a stand alone academy for over 10 years, Skelton Primary School are now in the process of finalising a design for a new school building to commence construction shortly. Numbers of role reflect the falling role locally and currently there are just over 500 on role.

Our school values are the 5Rs

READY to learn

RESILIENT to get stuck in and seek alternative routes to succeed if needed

RESPONSIBLE to make wise and kind decision and seek help

REFLECTIVE to think carefully and learn from our actions

RESPECTFUL and polite to all

Key areas of celebration include:

CHILD WELLBEING

- Quality first teaching including a Nurture provision, counselling, Care Team & inclusion provision.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

- Approachable, friendly, open 'spirit' amongst all children from Foundation Stage to Year 6.
- Pupil leadership in key areas especially teaching & learning, eco, UNICEF, hospitality and community.

PARENTS

- Support for our children, encouraging them with Skelton 5Rs as well as trying their best in home and at school.
- Support for our school in terms of policies and procedures, especially uniform and supporting out of hours clubs and attending social functions.

STAFFING

- Quality of teaching staff & dynamic of staffing structure nurturing year group identity and development
- Quality of support recognised as very important in all non teaching staff including classroom support, office and site staff.
- Resilience & fantastic support of staff
- Positive impact on teaching standards from networking with local schools and academy networks.

STANDARDS

- See below

Public benefit

In setting our Objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The key public benefit delivered by Skelton Primary School is the maintenance and development of high-quality education to its pupils and the support to their families and the whole community.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The school achieved a good Ofsted report in 2017, since then the school has continued to triangulate the analysis of data, books and observations of teaching to ensure the curriculum offer and teaching meets the needs of the children currently in our care. Our school Improvement plan focuses on continuing to develop and improve in all areas including the achievement of our pupils, teaching & learning, behaviour and leadership and management. In 2022 we had a section 8 inspection, and our grading was left as good. Comments in the report included

- Leaders have high expectations for all pupils.
- Pupils achieve well across the curriculum.
- Pupils and staff feel happy and safe
- Pupils are well behaved at school.
- Leaders have created a well-planned curriculum.
- The provision in early years is well organised.
- Leaders and staff ensure that reading has a high priority in school.
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are identified early, and effective support is put in place.
- The school is well led and managed.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key performance indicators

What?	Year Groups?	2022	2023	2024	National Comparison
EYFSP - Early Years Foundation Stage Profile - and expected child has reached Good Level of Development (GLD)	Early Years FS2	74%	52%	53%	Not available yet
Phonic Screening - tests a child's phonic knowledge for decoding words.	Year 1	81%	75%	77%	80%
KS1 Assessment - Children at the end of their KS1 journey are tested in reading and maths. Writing is Teacher Assessment - this is reported at a national level.	Year 2	Reading - 57% / 68% / 9% 6%		55% / 12%	Not available yet
		Writing - 44% / 57% / 0% 0%		51% / 3%	
		Maths - 65% / 70% / 4% 10%		78% / 9%	
Multiplication Tables Check - children are tested on their ability to calculate mentally up to 21x12 in 6 seconds - there is no pass mark	Year 4	18% of cohort scored 100% Average score 17.7	33% of cohort scored 100% Average Score 20.5	16% of cohort scored 100% Average score 20	34% achieved 100% Average score 20.6
KS2 assessments - at the End of KS2 children take part in SATS in reading, maths and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling). Teacher Assessments are submitted for Writing and Science - we were moderated for writing this year. NB national Greater Depth has not yet been released so only the expected national is reported.	Year 6	Reading - 81% / 39%	Reading 80% / 35%	84%/23%	74%
		Writing - 77% / 6%	Writing 79% / 12%	74%/16%	72%
		Maths - 84% / 16%	Maths 76% / 21%	78%/15%	73%
Combined looks at reading, writing and math	Year 6	Combined 69% / 2%	Combined 69% / 7%	66%/7%	61%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	Year 6	GPS - 83% / 20%	GPS - 81% / 86%	73%/32%	72%

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

NURSERY - Summer						
AREA	No.	Early Learning Goal	ATTAINMENT SUMMARY		PROGRESS SUMMARY	
			ON TRACK+	AT+	Nurs Entry - Nurs Summer	PTS PRG
CL	1	Communication and Language	75%	59%	Out	3.66
PSE	2	Physical Development	70%	59%	Good	3.14
PD	3	Personal, Social and Emotional	73%	64%	Out	3.49
LIT	4	Literacy	70%	59%	Good	3.26
MAT	5	Mathematics	75%	70%	Out	3.71
		Good Level of Development*	64%	50%	n/a	3.45
WOR	6	Understanding the World	80%	61%	Good	3.37
EX	7	Expressive Arts and Design	84%	75%	Out	3.40

Whole School attainment and progress data FS -Year 6

RECEPTION - Summer				
AREA	No.	Early Learning Goal	ATTAINMENT SUMMARY	
			ON TRACK+	AT+
CL	1	Listening, Attention & Understanding	90%	87%
	2	Speaking	96%	86%
PSE	3	Self-Regulation	89%	74%
	4	Managing Self	96%	81%
PD	5	Building Relationships	94%	74%
	6	Gross Motor Skills	94%	94%
LIT	7	Fine Motor Skills	91%	84%
	8	Comprehension	89%	81%
MAT	9	Word Reading	86%	64%
	10	Writing	86%	63%
WOR	11	Number	89%	79%
	12	Number Patterns	87%	77%
		Good Level of Development*	83%	53%
EX	13	Past & Present	93%	86%
	14	People, Culture & Communities	94%	86%
WOR	15	The Natural World	94%	89%
	16	Creating with Materials	91%	83%
EX	17	Being Imaginative & Expressive	91%	84%

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

PROGRESS & ATTAINMENT SUMMARY YEAR 1 to YEAR 6							
Summer Term 2023 2024							
All Pupils Subject	PUPILS	ATTAINMENT SUMMARY			PROGRESS SUMMARY		
		ON TRACK+	AT+	AB	Entry/Baseline - Summer	PTS PROG	
Year 1	Reading	79%	60%	14%	Req Imp	2.63	
	Pupils 57	Writing	82%	68%	0%	Req Imp	2.81
	B29 G28	Maths	82%	72%	0%	Req Imp	2.81
	Dis 19 (33%)	RWM Comb	79%	53%	0%	n/a	2.75
SEN 13 (27%)	Science	100%	100%	0%	Good	3.00	
Year 2	Reading	85%	55%	12%	Req Imp	2.72	
	Pupils 67	Writing	87%	51%	3%	Req Imp	2.79
	B29 G36	Maths	88%	73%	7%	Req Imp	2.81
	Dis 18 (27%)	RWM Comb	82%	46%	0%	n/a	2.77
SEN 12 (18%)	Science	100%	100%	0%	Out	5.00	
Year 3	Reading	75%	65%	2%	Req Imp	2.72	
	Pupils 48	Writing	73%	60%	2%	Req Imp	2.79
	B28 G30	Maths	88%	77%	8%	Good	3.00
	Dis 22 (46%)	RWM Comb	69%	56%	2%	n/a	2.84
SEN 10 (21%)	Science	100%	100%	0%	Good	3.00	
Year 4	Reading	76%	57%	13%	Good	2.93	
	Pupils 63	Writing	70%	38%	5%	Req Imp	2.67
	B31 G32	Maths	79%	70%	17%	Req Imp	2.82
	Dis 30 (48%)	RWM Comb	67%	37%	5%	n/a	2.81
SEN 15 (24%)	Science	100%	100%	0%	Good	3.00	
Year 5	Reading	81%	70%	7%	Req Imp	2.79	
	Pupils 70	Writing	71%	53%	3%	Req Imp	2.71
	B34 G26	Maths	77%	66%	17%	Req Imp	2.68
	Dis 27 (39%)	RWM Comb	67%	47%	1%	n/a	2.73
SEN 13 (19%)	Science	80%	67%	0%	Good	2.89	

All collected data is created through a process of internal moderation, moreover years EY, Y2 and Y6 have opportunity to moderate externally. We have seen attainment rise in many areas of the curriculum, especially so in the end of Key Stage 2 results

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

EYFS

2024 EYFS Analysis

The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD) is 53%. The percentage achieving the standard has increased by 1%. The percentage of boys achieving a good level of development is 51% and girls is 55%, so therefore there is an achievement gap of 3%.

Overall this cohort is below the National average (NAT 67%).

Over the last three years 60% of pupils (120/200) have achieved a good level of development (GLD). National average 66%.

2024 EYFS School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

17% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 12 pupils (6 boys and 6 girls).

17% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the GLD.

Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Key Stage 1

2024 Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard (32+ out of 40) in the Year One Phonics Test is 77%. The percentage achieving the standard has increased by 3%. The percentage of boys achieving the standard is 72% and girls is 82%, so therefore there is an achievement gap of 10%.

Boys' scores are up from 2023 2023-68% / 2024-72%. Girls' scores are up from 2023 2023-80% / 2024-82%.

Overall this cohort is in line with the National average (NAT 79%).

Over the last three years 77% of pupils (135/175) have achieved the expected standard. National average 78%.

2024 Y1 Phonics School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

33% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 19 pupils (9 boys and 10 girls).

68% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the standard compared to 83% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 15%. National Disadvantaged is 67%. Disadvantaged pupils performance is similar or better than Disadvantaged pupils Nationally, but still below 'Other' pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 65% of disadvantaged pupils (37/57) have achieved the expected standard.

2024 Reading School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

27% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 18 pupils (10 boys and 8 girls).

44% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 72% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 28%. National Disadvantaged is 51%. Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 46% of disadvantaged pupils (25/54) have achieved the expected standard or above.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2024 Writing School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

27% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 18 pupils (10 boys and 8 girls).

33% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 63% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 30%. National Disadvantaged is 41%. Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 35% of disadvantaged pupils (19/54) have achieved the expected standard or above.

2024 Maths School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

27% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 18 pupils (10 boys and 8 girls).

61% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 73% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 12%. National Disadvantaged is 52%. Disadvantaged pupils performance is similar or better than Disadvantaged pupils Nationally, but still below 'Other' pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 54% of disadvantaged pupils (29/54) have achieved the expected standard or above.

Key Stage 2

2024 Multiplication Tables Check School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving full marks (25/25) in the Year Four Multiplication Tables Test is 5%.

The average score of disadvantaged pupils who took the Year Four Multiplication Tables Test is 19.5 (out of 25).

2024 RWM combined (EXP) School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Dis)

40% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 25 pupils (10 boys and 15 girls).

44% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 70% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 26%. National Disadvantaged is 51%. Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 59% of disadvantaged pupils (48/81) have achieved the expected standard or above.

2024 Reading School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

40% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 25 pupils (10 boys and 15 girls).

80% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 80% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 0%. National Disadvantaged is 64%. The performance of Disadvantaged pupils in school is similar or better than 'Other' pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 81% of disadvantaged pupils (66/81) have achieved the expected standard or above.

2024 Writing School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

40% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 25 pupils (10 boys and 15 girls).

56% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 83% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 27%. National Disadvantaged is 67%. Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 70% of disadvantaged pupils (57/81) have achieved the expected standard or above.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2024 SpaG School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

40% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 25 pupils (10 boys and 15 girls).

56% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 82% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 26%. National Disadvantaged is 67%. Disadvantaged pupils are below Disadvantaged pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 77% of disadvantaged pupils (62/81) have achieved the expected standard or above.

2024 Maths School Disadvantaged vs National 'Other' (Not Disadvantaged)

40% of pupils are Disadvantaged - 25 pupils (10 boys and 15 girls).

64% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 81% of 'Other' pupils Nationally. Therefore, there is an achievement gap of 17%. National Disadvantaged is 64%. Disadvantaged pupils performance is similar or better than Disadvantaged pupils Nationally, but still below 'Other' pupils Nationally.

Over the last three years 73% of disadvantaged pupils (59/81) have achieved the expected standard or above.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key Development areas 2024-2025

Improvement Priority	Outcome 1 – Attendance	Outcome 2 – Behaviour	Outcome 3 –Oracy	Outcome 4 – Foundation subjects
	To increase the percentage of children in school on a daily basis by tackling the issues surrounding persistent absence	To develop learning behaviours in all children so that they have improved listening skills, motivation to learn and working memory (Metacognition). We want children to respect themselves and the rules of school and society	To develop oracy across school.	To develop the Big Idea curriculum through establishing substantive and disciplinary knowledge
Key Staff	All staff	All staff	All staff	All staff
School Governance	List which governors are looking at specific outcome			
Context	<p>2023-2024 Attendance picture</p> <p>Key statistics for SPS</p> <p>93.2% attendance (6.8% absence rate)</p> <p>7.8% Persistent absence (82 children)</p> <p>2% Severe Persistent absence (9 children)</p> <p>By school type, the absence rates across the academic year 2023/24 to date were 5.5% in state-funded primary schools (3.9% authorised and 1.6% unauthorised)</p> <p>DfE finding suggest that in 2019 KS2 who didn't achieve WTS missed on average 4 more days school than those who did achieve WTS. In 2022 ¼ pupils were absent for 10% of sessions – this was double the 2019 figure.</p>	<p>In termly standards feedback, regular discussion is about children not having certain skills needed to succeed in learning.</p> <p>Resilience – “children give up too quickly when challenged”</p> <p>Listening skills – “what do I have to do?”</p> <p>Motivation – “not enough care”, “silly mistakes”, “doesn't like challenge”</p> <p>Evidence indicates that explicitly teaching children strategies to help plan, monitor and evaluate their learning is effective.</p> <p>We need to invest time in making sure our pupils can self-regulate so that they know their strengths and weaknesses and can motivate themselves to engage in and improve their learning. Our children need to become knowledgeable about how they learn. We need to understand more about how to support pupils so that they can plan, monitor and evaluate their learning.</p>	<p>We have noticed a decline in spoken language for children entering school. We also see that limited vocabulary holds children back in fully understanding and engaging in learning.</p> <p>Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.</p> <p>Oracy is vital to primary literacy and a lever for social mobility. Communication skills are also foundational to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving academic outcomes (test scores, knowledge retention, vocabulary acquisition and reasoning skills) Underpins literacy and vocabulary acquisition Supports wellbeing and confidence – e.g. express thought and opinion, understanding emotions, seeking help and support Enable children to access learning beyond primary school. Develops citizenship – it gives them a voice 	<p>The Big Idea curriculum is being revised with a two -year teaching cycle. We have also moved towards a knowledge and skills based curriculum. Fresh emphasis will be placed up how children record with the Big idea books to ensure that the standard of work is of the highest standard.</p> <p>Developing staff confidence in substantive and disciplinary knowledge will be crucial to the long-term success of the curriculum.</p> <p>Substantive Knowledge: established facts, e.g. the earth is the planet on which we live. Disciplinary Knowledge: the methods that establish the substantive facts, e.g. observation of the sun, moon and stars, satellite photographs.</p> <p>When the skills and knowledge are sequenced in a progressional manner and the children are engaged, we will know that we have an effective curriculum.</p>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the School 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 Accounting Policies.

Financial review

- The principal sources of income are the ESFA and the Local Authority.
- Total income for the 12-month period was £2,883,639 of which
- £2,553,510 (88%) came from ESFA,
- £209,769 (8%) came from the LA,
- £120,360 (4%) came from other sources.
- Funding from the ESFA is for 455 pupils as opposed to 454 last year.
- The school has been able to partake in some of its usual fundraising activities which has an important funding stream to provide additional resources for school.

Pay Costs represent 84% of the School's overall income and Non-Pay costs are largely a continuation of current contracts, commitments and maintenance as well as educational resources.

The IT offer at Skelton is really something to be proud of. Every child in national curriculum year has their own IPAd and as such are more independent and more creative in their learning journey. As a knock on effect, printing costs are reduced, collaborative work is easier to facilitate and the learning experience is much enhanced.

The investment into BIG IDEAS which guides our afternoon learning stemming from key questions allows us to offer a curriculum that is relevant, localised where possible and exciting. The children are also able to take their books home to celebrate with their families.

The offer of learning through continuous provision, so successful in Foundation Stage and Year 1 has been extended this year into Year 2. We are still coming out of covid and the extra time and small group support is reaping benefits. The investment into staff in lower school and Nurture has been beneficial and staff and parents are most grateful.

Reserves policy

The level of reserves are reviewed by Trustees throughout the year taking into consideration income and expenditure. Trustees have determined the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to at least one and half month's operational costs. This will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide sufficient funds to deal with any unforeseen emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Schools free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) at the end of the period are £403,446 .The school plans to use some of its reserves to cushion the decrease in funding due to the continuing fall in pupil numbers. School reserves are considered to be appropriate and sufficient to cope with any unforeseen contingencies.

Investment policy

The School has opened two 95 Day Accounts with Lloyds one for the School Main Account and one for the School Fund Account.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Principal risks and uncertainties

An essential part of financial planning is consideration of risks to the School. This covers all risks, not merely financial risks, as mitigation of non-financial risks can still have financial consequences. The SBM maintains a detailed risk register. This needs to be updated regularly and considered by the Governing Body alongside the annual budget submission. The Resource Employment Finance and Audit Committee should have risk management as a standing item on their agenda, and any significant changes to the register should be considered at each meeting.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping staff, pupils and visitors safe and as an employer we have a Health and Safety duties. Maintenance of the school is an important part of complying with these duties the Trustees review the risks they face and decide how best to manage them. This is outlined in the schools Risk Management Strategy and its objectives which are:

- To comply with risk management best practice;
- To ensure risks facing the School are identified and appropriately documented;
- To provide assurance to the Governors that risks are being adequately controlled, or identify areas for improvement;
- To ensure action is taken appropriately in relation to accepting, mitigating, avoiding and transferring risks.

The principal risks have been identified as:

- Reputational – we aim to maintain and continually improve our educational offer and to attract all of our catchment area families.
- Build. The new build will be a protracted period of disruption for our children and staff. We aim to make it as seamless and smooth as much as we can.
- Falling roll. LA estimate roll fall from 500+ to 450's could mean a 10% drop in income
- ESFA Funding – there is no guarantee that government policy or practice will remain the same, policy changes could have a negative impact on funding levels
- Universal Infant Free School Meals – the introduction of UIFSM could potentially affect the level of funding if parents entitled to Free School Meals do not register their entitlement (School, at least annually, canvasses FS2/KS1 parents to highlight the benefits of applying for FSM- discounted trips etc.)
- LGPS defined benefit Pension scheme
- Staff Absence
- Pandemic
- Cyber attack
- School Building Safety and Compliance

Risk Management

The School has carried out a Financial Risk & Control checklist. This checklist is intended to help review levels of internal control with a view to assessing the likelihood/impact of any risk arising from the controls not being in place. The checklist is completed on an annual basis as part of the annual Statement of Internal Control that is to be signed by the Head teacher, Chair of Governors or Chair of Resource Employment & Finance Committee.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not have any external fundraisers. Fundraising is monitored by the Trustees. The school PTA has continued its programme of events for the whole year the first time since the Pandemic.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Plans for future periods

PUPILS - Confident, motivated children with a clear picture of their role and where they fit as twenty first century young people.

PARENTS - Further informed and involved in what their children are learning, and how they can support them.

CURRICULUM – Further be-spoked curriculum to support the changing needs of our children to promote residence, curiosity and to be equipped for life as independent young people.

STANDARDS – To build on our successes and further empower staff to support the diversity of need especially with our children at entry.

COLLABORATIONS - Working with a number of high-quality collaborations, directly impacting on standards for our children

COMMUNITY - At the very heart of the community in as extended way as possible

ENVIRONMENT - An outstanding learning environment for all as we transition into our new school building developing our site. Allowing all expert adults to deliver high quality provision to all learners- especially in standards of teaching

BESPOKE CPD - Offering an outstanding bespoke service for our staff team.

FINANCIALLY – We will have to invest in new outdoor equipment for Early Years and storage for classrooms in the new school as our existing equipment is past its best or wont fit.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy has no funds for which it is acting as custodian trustee.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



L Allan
Chair

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head teacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Skelton Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on Governance included here supplements that as described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 9 times during the year. Attendance during the year of Board of Trustees was as follows;:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S E Walker (Principal and accounting officer)	6	6
T Hill	6	6
L Allan (Chair)	6	6
G E Bland (Vice chair)	6	6
H L Swarbrick	6	6
R P Anderson	6	6
M Bloomfield	5	6
D Leighton	5	6
A J Woolf	5	6
J Tasker	6	6
Dr J McCue (Appointed 2 January 2024)	1	4

Conflicts of interest

Governors meet every half term as a minimum, governors are aligned with key school headlines from the improvement plan. They make visits when they can, ideally termly talking to staff and children and looking at evidence in action. The HT shares a weekly bulletin to keep everyone up to date with whole school issues and half termly mini surveys are conducted and outcomes shared to reassure colleagues about current joys/ concerns and solutions in place. A Skills Audit is undertaken annually to ensure effective governance.

Membership is reviewed annually and currently all roles are filled with proactive, challenging and supportive colleagues.

The document introduced previously containing KPIs, improvement targets and clarifying governor strategic is still a permanent feature of SPS Governing body.

The Resource Employment and Finance & Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Finance

- To consider the Academy's indicative funding, notified annually by the ESFA, and to assess its implications for the academy, in consultation with the Head Teacher in advance of the financial year, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
- To consider and recommend to the governing body acceptance of the academy's budget, at the start of each financial year.
- To contribute to the formulation of the academy's development plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Head Teacher with the stated and agreed aims and objectives of the academy.
- To receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
- To liaise with and receive reports from the Curriculum, Achievement and Standards and Children, Families and Community Committees, as appropriate, and to make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
- To monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the academy, and with the financial regulations of the DfE, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
- To monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis and in response to reports from the accounting officer/responsible officer, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and, where appropriate to make recommendations to the governing body for improvement.
- To approve the financial statement for filing in accordance with Companies Act and Charity Commission requirements
- To be responsible to the Board for ensuring compliance with the Funding Agreement and all relevant financial regulations relating to the Academy is observed.
- To advise on major financial decisions that may affect the Academy's resources and finances and the risks involved in such decisions including value for money.
- To oversee treasury management and associated risk.
- To advise the Governing Body on other methods of income generation
- Oversee any capital investment programmes and advise the Governing Body as appropriate
- Additional items which the Governing Body may wish to include

Premises, health and safety

- draw up medium and long term plans relating to the repair, maintenance and development of premises and recommend action to the governing body;
- agree the lettings and charges policy for the use of Academy premises;
- keep the health and safety and emergency procedures and policies under review, ensuring that necessary checks and assessments are carried out and prioritised for action
- seek professional external advice as and when appropriate, inclusive of support offered through service level agreements, to ensure that the academy complies with all current health and safety requirements

Staffing

- agree the staffing establishment and structure (teaching and non-teaching) at least annually in relation to the budget and the Academy development plan
- keep under review appropriate staffing policies and procedures - to include grievance, discipline, redundancy, capability, sickness absence; performance management, whistle blowing, pay and conditions of employment and ensure staff are consulted and informed appropriately
- recommend to the governing body the procedure for filling vacancies and making staff appointments below the Leadership Group
- monitor the impact of equalities and diversity policies on staff recruitment and retention
- ensure the Academy complies with the latest requirements in relation to safe recruitment and safeguarding procedures
- consider any issues referred by the head teacher outside any scheme or policy adopted by the governing body.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The day-to-day running of the School has been delegated to the Head teacher or the deputy in her absence.

Attendance at the meetings in the period of this report are as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S E Walker (Principal and accounting officer)	3	3
G E Bland (Vice chair)	2	3
R P Anderson	3	3
M Bloomfield	3	3

Conflicts of Interest

All Trustees are mandated to declare their business and pecuniary interests on appointment and at least annually thereafter or when there is any change in their interests at any point. A new Trustee will be provided with a copy of the conflicts of interest policy before appointment. A Declaration of Interest is a standing item on each Agenda.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

VALUE FOR MONEY	ACTIONS TAKEN	IMPROVEMENT IN OUTCOMES
<i>New initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIMs led reporting at the end of year. SIMs app being available to parents. • Corrective Review books designed and used at all times by staff removing the need for marking • New build removes the need for school to replenish smartboards & server. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge impact on staff wellbeing. Streamline, effective data than populates SIMs. Parent comms. • Money targeted elsewhere.
<i>Better purchasing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three quotes for jobs over £3k • Member of CST & collaborating with local schools to identify economies and initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best pricing allowing max spend on our children.
<i>Targeted improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with National Literacy Hub targeting phonics teaching involving the whole of lower school team and involved regular CPD • Targeted support with speech & language and gross & fine motor skills. • THRIVE sessions introduced for families • Rising 3's parent sessions as part of the transition /starter package • New leadership structure diving the school into phases and empowering all staff towards leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency/ rolling feedback/ dialogue about standards effecting change. • Promote independence & core skill. • Capacity to engage in phonics and spelling • Support the transition into full time school easier for children who need extra support/ well received • Inspired teaching staff, challenged to further improve their provision for diverse needs Gauge family engagement • Leadership opportunities
<i>Benchmarking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for staff, monitoring data & performance. Team teaching & focus on personalised learning. • Booster sessions planned straight after assessment week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress data is steady across school • Well pitched support • Evaluative feedback
<i>Estate Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the 7 functions of estate management as outlined in Good Estate Management for Schools (GEMS) • Business Continuity Plan in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans in place to support educational goals • Procuring appropriate services through Service Level Agreements • Identifying areas to deliver efficiencies
<i>Health & Safety and Compliance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the school is safe for all users • Trained, alert staff taking ownership of responsibilities • Maintain and update Risk register • Maintaining the estate and ensure the relevant compliance policies are in place • Health & safety Audit conducted annually by R&CBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures in place to deal with H&S issues • Taking action to minimise risk • School fully compliant with relevant legislation and regulatory standards • Responsibilities for H&S are clearly defined • Audit recommendations are actioned within the appropriate timescale
<i>Economies of scale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT to cover short term absence. • Sharing buses with local schools for events. • Working alongside local school to share moderation from FS-Y6 • Bulk buying where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving money • Quality provision within ratio • Cross school moderation

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the School 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risk that has been in place for the period 1st September, 2023 to 31st August, 2024 and up to date approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process will be regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has decided:

- to buy-in an internal audit service from Anderson- Barrowcliff

The option has been chosen because the service is good value for money, governed by professional code of ethics and standards and can ensure that the trust is doing the right things in the right way as well as make recommendations to help improve governance, risk and control arrangements.

The auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the school's financial and other systems. The auditor provides an Internal Assurance report, through the REF Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' responsibilities.

In the Spring (covers Autumn) and Summer term (covers Spring and Summer), Anderson-Barrowcliff the auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the REF Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key finding, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

In determining the priority rankings of Internal Assurance recommendations, we consider the potential impact and exposure to the trust against the probability of occurrence. Detailed below is a summary of our priority ranking matrix.

- High**
These matters are fundamental to your internal control processes and should be addressed as a matter of urgency
- Medium**
These matters are important to your internal control systems and should be addressed but may not require immediate action.
- Low**
Such matters may represent best practice or suggested improvement to a system that is already working effectively.

In determining the priority rankings of internal assurance recommendations, we consider the potential impact and exposure to the trust against the probability of occurrence.

The Work Programme for the Autumn Term 2023/2024

- payroll
- purchases
- income
- bank
- management accounts
- credit and debit accounts
- service level agreements
- connected parties
- fixed assets
- reconciliation
- governance and ESFA returns
- IT
- Vat
- premises

No recommendations

The Work Programme for the Spring and Summer Term 2024

- payroll
- purchases
- income
- bank
- management accounts
- service level agreements
- connected parties
- fixed assets
- premises
- governance
- bank

No recommendations

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the external auditor

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the REF and Audit Committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



S Newton
Acting Accounting Officer



L Allan
Chair

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As acting Accounting Officer of Skelton Primary School Trust since 11 December 2024 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 Schools Financial Handbook 2023. Including responsibilities for estates and safety management.

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

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



S Newton
Acting Accounting Officer

16 December 2024

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



L Allan
Chair

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Skelton Primary School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of matter - LGPS disclosure

We draw your attention to note 2 to the financial statements which describes how the LGPS balance has been accounted for. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

19/12/2024

Statutory Auditor

Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
United Kingdom
TS22 5TB

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Skelton Primary School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Skelton Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Skelton Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 November 2013 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2015, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of Internal Assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls
- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under ESFA delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

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

Azet Audit Services

Reporting Accountant
Azets Audit Services

Dated:19/12/2024.....

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	13,491	-	30,138	43,629	44,673
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	40,671	2,743,279	-	2,783,950	2,712,795
Other trading activities	5	50,239	-	-	50,239	44,995
Investments	6	5,821	-	-	5,821	57
Total		<u>110,222</u>	<u>2,743,279</u>	<u>30,138</u>	<u>2,883,639</u>	<u>2,802,520</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	83,943	-	-	83,943	80,857
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	20,578	2,721,800	87,622	2,830,000	2,806,240
Total	7	<u>104,521</u>	<u>2,721,800</u>	<u>87,622</u>	<u>2,913,943</u>	<u>2,887,097</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		5,701	21,479	(57,484)	(30,304)	(84,577)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(1,568)	1,568	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	173,000	-	173,000	630,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(192,000)	-	(192,000)	(472,000)
Net movement in funds		5,701	911	(55,916)	(49,304)	73,423
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		397,745	33,086	2,380,871	2,811,702	2,738,279
Total funds carried forward		<u>403,446</u>	<u>33,997</u>	<u>2,324,955</u>	<u>2,762,398</u>	<u>2,811,702</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	15,263	-	29,410	44,673
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	42,515	2,670,280	-	2,712,795
Other trading activities	5	44,995	-	-	44,995
Investments	6	57	-	-	57
Total		<u>102,830</u>	<u>2,670,280</u>	<u>29,410</u>	<u>2,802,520</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	80,857	-	-	80,857
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	2,697,096	109,144	2,806,240
Total	7	<u>80,857</u>	<u>2,697,096</u>	<u>109,144</u>	<u>2,887,097</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		21,973	(26,816)	(79,734)	(84,577)
Transfers between funds	16	(1,855)	162	1,693	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	630,000	-	630,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(472,000)	-	(472,000)
Net movement in funds		20,118	131,346	(78,041)	73,423
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>377,627</u>	<u>(98,260)</u>	<u>2,458,912</u>	<u>2,738,279</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>397,745</u>	<u>33,086</u>	<u>2,380,871</u>	<u>2,811,702</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		2,324,955		2,380,320
Current assets					
Debtors	13	105,086		101,897	
Cash at bank and in hand		537,403		551,717	
		<u>642,489</u>		<u>653,614</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(205,046)		(222,232)	
Net current assets			<u>437,443</u>		<u>431,382</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset			<u>2,762,398</u>		<u>2,811,702</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
Total net assets			<u><u>2,762,398</u></u>		<u><u>2,811,702</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			2,324,955		2,380,871
- Restricted income funds			33,997		33,086
Total restricted funds			<u>2,358,952</u>		<u>2,413,957</u>
Unrestricted income funds	16		<u>403,446</u>		<u>397,745</u>
Total funds			<u><u>2,762,398</u></u>		<u><u>2,811,702</u></u>

The accounts on pages 31 to 53 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

L Allan
Chair

Company registration number 08693259 (England and Wales)

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19		(18,016)		83,549
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,821		57	
Capital grants from DfE Group		9,482		29,410	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(11,601)		(31,103)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-		550	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			<u>3,702</u>		<u>(1,086)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(14,314)		82,463
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			551,717		469,254
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u>537,403</u>		<u>551,717</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 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 that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Land	125 years straight line
Leasehold buildings	50 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	50 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The basis of valuation has been disclosed within the fixed assets note.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. 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. 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.

1.9 Taxation

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. The UK corporate bond yields at 31 August 2024 are at their highest levels for many years resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to last year and will be one of the main reasons a net asset has been reported. We have ensured that our assumptions are appropriate for the Academy Trust and the valuation has been based on the following estimates:

- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to LGPS
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period
- The present values in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

There is no known intention to exit the LGPS and therefore the economic benefit of a refund would be highly unlikely and on that basis recognition of an asset is considered inappropriate. We have however considered the economic benefit available to the Academy Trust as a future contribution reduction and whether it is appropriate to recognise the net asset in full. Under FRS 102, a net asset restriction may apply as the prevailing view is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. We requested our actuaries consider the impact of the minimum funding requirement on the asset ceiling and as a result we have restricted the asset to £nil based upon an asset restriction calculation. We consider this to be appropriate and a more accurate reflection of the pension positions as at 31 August 2024.

Land and buildings

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The land and buildings are valued on the basis of valuations provided by the ESFA/local authority

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated as to write off the cost of an asset off over its useful economic life. The accounting policies are disclosed in the accounting policy above.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donated fixed assets	-	20,656	20,656	-
Capital grants	-	9,482	9,482	29,410
Other donations	13,491	-	13,491	15,263
	<u>13,491</u>	<u>30,138</u>	<u>43,629</u>	<u>44,673</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,088,380	2,088,380	2,034,360
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	66,818	66,818	57,238
- Pupil premium	-	204,353	204,353	203,288
- PE and sports premium	-	19,870	19,870	19,800
- Rates	-	7,842	7,842	8,641
- Teachers pension grant	-	18,390	18,390	6,344
- Teachers pay grant	-	36,548	36,548	964
- Others	-	91,309	91,309	84,884
	-	2,533,510	2,533,510	2,415,519
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	203,588	203,588	234,026
Special educational projects	-	6,181	6,181	-
	-	209,769	209,769	234,026
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	20,735
Other incoming resources	12,246	-	12,246	15,386
Total funding for educational operations	12,246	2,743,279	2,755,525	2,685,666
Catering income	28,425	-	28,425	27,129
Total funding	40,671	2,743,279	2,783,950	2,712,795

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Other trading activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £	
Catering income	222	-	222	392	
Educational visits	22,479	-	22,479	14,407	
Other income	27,538	-	27,538	30,196	
	<u>50,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,239</u>	<u>44,995</u>	
6 Investment income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £	
Short term deposits	5,821	-	5,821	57	
	<u>5,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,821</u>	<u>57</u>	
7 Expenditure	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	11,120	-	72,823	83,943	80,857
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,117,892	-	88,025	2,205,917	2,131,334
- Allocated support costs	219,186	252,305	152,592	624,083	674,906
	<u>2,348,198</u>	<u>252,305</u>	<u>313,440</u>	<u>2,913,943</u>	<u>2,887,097</u>
 Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:				2024	2023
				£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				87,622	109,333
Gain on disposal of fixed assets				-	(189)
Fees payable to auditor for:					
- Audit				9,750	8,950
- Other services				3,750	3,550
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability				<u>(24,000)</u>	<u>6,000</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	20,578	2,185,339	2,205,917	2,131,334
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	624,083	624,083	674,906
	<u>20,578</u>	<u>2,809,422</u>	<u>2,830,000</u>	<u>2,806,240</u>
			2024	2023
			£	£
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs			219,186	253,547
Depreciation			87,622	109,144
Technology costs			6,046	6,661
Premises costs			164,683	139,115
Other support costs			130,342	151,135
Governance costs			16,204	15,304
			<u>624,083</u>	<u>674,906</u>
			2024	2023
			£	£
9 Staff				
Staff costs				
Staff costs during the year were:			2024	2023
			£	£
Wages and salaries			1,681,942	1,645,935
Social security costs			167,996	158,025
Pension costs			391,247	395,660
			<u>2,241,185</u>	<u>2,199,620</u>
Staff costs - employees			2,241,185	2,199,620
Agency staff costs			107,013	117,792
			<u>2,348,198</u>	<u>2,317,412</u>
Total staff expenditure			<u>2,348,198</u>	<u>2,317,412</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Staff (Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers and teaching assistants	21	23
Administration and support	32	34
Management	5	6
	<u>58</u>	<u>63</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £463,545 (2023: £493,316).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

S Walker (Headteacher)	
Remuneration	£85,001 - £90,000 (2023: £80,001 - £85,000)
Employer's pension contributions	£20,001 - £25,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)
T Hill (Teacher)	
Remuneration	£35,001 - £40,000 (2023: £30,001 - £35,000)
Employer's pension contributions	£5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £5,001 - £10,000)
A Woolf (Assistant Headteacher)	
Remuneration	£50,001 - £55,000 (2023: £50,001 - £55,000)
Employer's pension contributions	£10,001 - £15,000 (2023: £10,001 - £15,000)

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,000 (2023: £1,000).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Leasehold improvements £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	2,800,000	69,224	197,134	395,345	3,461,703
Additions	-	-	28,357	3,900	32,257
Disposals	-	-	(4,795)	-	(4,795)
At 31 August 2024	2,800,000	69,224	220,696	399,245	3,489,165
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	529,261	10,941	156,602	384,579	1,081,383
On disposals	-	-	(4,795)	-	(4,795)
Charge for the year	53,638	1,450	24,127	8,407	87,622
At 31 August 2024	582,899	12,391	175,934	392,986	1,164,210
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	2,217,101	56,833	44,762	6,259	2,324,955
At 31 August 2023	2,270,739	58,283	40,532	10,766	2,380,320

Land and buildings were valued on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as at 31 March 2014 by Mouchel on behalf of the ESFA. This value was capitalised at the date of conversion.

13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	9,451	6,951
VAT recoverable	7,771	9,711
Prepayments and accrued income	87,864	85,235
	105,086	101,897

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	29,719	39,567
Other taxation and social security	50,134	38,043
Other creditors	47,155	62,679
Accruals and deferred income	78,038	81,943
	<u>205,046</u>	<u>222,232</u>
	<u><u>205,046</u></u>	<u><u>222,232</u></u>

15 Deferred income	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	43,725	39,505
	<u>43,725</u>	<u>39,505</u>
	<u><u>43,725</u></u>	<u><u>39,505</u></u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	39,505	40,542
Released from previous years	(39,505)	(40,542)
Resources deferred in the year	43,725	39,505
	<u>43,725</u>	<u>39,505</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u><u>43,725</u></u>	<u><u>39,505</u></u>

Deferred income includes free school meals and rates relief funding for the 2024/25 academic year, received in advance.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	33,086	2,088,380	(2,086,701)	(1,568)	33,197
UIFSM	-	66,818	(66,818)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	204,353	(204,353)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	91,309	(90,509)	-	800
Other government grants	-	209,769	(209,769)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	19,870	(19,870)	-	-
Teachers pension	-	18,390	(18,390)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	36,548	(36,548)	-	-
Rates	-	7,842	(7,842)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	19,000	(19,000)	-
	<u>33,086</u>	<u>2,743,279</u>	<u>(2,721,800)</u>	<u>(20,568)</u>	<u>33,997</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	2,270,743	-	(53,636)	-	2,217,107
DfE group capital grants	17,587	9,482	(5,707)	-	21,362
Capital expenditure from GAG	85,655	-	(21,569)	1,568	65,654
Private sector capital sponsorship	6,886	20,656	(6,710)	-	20,832
	<u>2,380,871</u>	<u>30,138</u>	<u>(87,622)</u>	<u>1,568</u>	<u>2,324,955</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,413,957</u>	<u>2,773,417</u>	<u>(2,809,422)</u>	<u>(19,000)</u>	<u>2,358,952</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	397,745	110,222	(104,521)	-	403,446
	<u>397,745</u>	<u>110,222</u>	<u>(104,521)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>403,446</u>
Total funds	<u>2,811,702</u>	<u>2,883,639</u>	<u>(2,913,943)</u>	<u>(19,000)</u>	<u>2,762,398</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Other DfE/ESFA grants includes Mainstream additional schools grant, Early years backfill and National tutor grant income.

Other government grants include funding for pupils with special educational needs and early years funding and other grants from the local authority.

The pension reserve reflects the LGPS transactions. The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to the LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with these funds.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent Devolved Formula Capital receivable during the period which has been spent on non-capitalised maintenance expenditure.

The Inherited Fixed Asset Fund reflects the assets acquired on conversion. Depreciation on these assets is charged against this fund.

Capital expenditure has been funded by GAG. Transfers between the funds to reflect these transactions are shown in the gains, losses and transfers column.

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose, at the discretion of the trustees, within the objectives of the academy trust.

The academy's restricted general and unrestricted funds were £437,443 at 31 August 2024.

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	11,740	2,034,360	(2,013,176)	162	33,086
UIFSM	-	57,238	(57,238)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	203,288	(203,288)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	20,735	(20,735)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	21,036	(21,036)	-	-
Other government grants	-	234,026	(234,026)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	19,800	(19,800)	-	-
Teachers pension	-	6,860	(6,860)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	2,426	(2,426)	-	-
Rates	-	8,641	(8,641)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	61,870	(61,870)	-	-
Pension reserve	(110,000)	-	(48,000)	158,000	-
	<u>(98,260)</u>	<u>2,670,280</u>	<u>(2,697,096)</u>	<u>158,162</u>	<u>33,086</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	2,324,379	-	(53,636)	-	2,270,743
DfE group capital grants	358	29,410	(4,879)	(7,502)	17,587
Capital expenditure from GAG	113,891	-	(37,431)	9,195	85,655
Private sector capital sponsorship	20,284	-	(13,398)	-	6,886
	<u>2,458,912</u>	<u>29,410</u>	<u>(109,144)</u>	<u>1,693</u>	<u>2,380,871</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,360,652</u>	<u>2,699,690</u>	<u>(2,806,240)</u>	<u>159,855</u>	<u>2,413,957</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>377,627</u>	<u>102,830</u>	<u>(80,857)</u>	<u>(1,855)</u>	<u>397,745</u>
Total funds	<u>2,738,279</u>	<u>2,802,520</u>	<u>(2,887,097)</u>	<u>158,000</u>	<u>2,811,702</u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,324,955	2,324,955
Current assets	403,446	239,043	-	642,489
Current liabilities	-	(205,046)	-	(205,046)
Total net assets	403,446	33,997	2,324,955	2,762,398
	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,380,320	2,380,320
Current assets	397,745	255,319	550	653,614
Current liabilities	-	(222,232)	-	(222,232)
Total net assets	397,745	33,087	2,380,870	2,811,702

18 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £293,338 (2023: £263,574).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are % for employers and % for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	95,000	90,000
Employees' contributions	33,000	31,000
	<u>128,000</u>	<u>121,000</u>
Total contributions	128,000	121,000
	<u><u>128,000</u></u>	<u><u>121,000</u></u>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20
	<u><u>5.00</u></u>	<u><u>5.20</u></u>

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.4	20.5
- Females	23.4	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.2	21.3
- Females	24.9	25.0

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Discount rate + 0.1%	2,617,000	2,601,000
Discount rate - 0.1%	2,749,000	2,723,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	2,576,000	2,564,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year	2,790,000	2,760,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	2,746,000	2,713,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	2,620,000	2,611,000

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

	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	2,376,370	2,132,330
Cash	100,410	116,840
Property	870,220	671,830
Total market value of assets	3,347,000	2,921,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(664,000)	(472,000)
Net assets recognised	2,683,000	2,449,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £325,000 (2023: £271,000).

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024	2023	
	£	£	
Current service cost	100,000	132,000	
Interest income	(154,000)	(110,000)	
Interest cost	130,000	116,000	
Total amount recognised	76,000	138,000	
<p>The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.</p>			
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024	2023	
	£	£	
At 1 September 2023	2,449,000	2,662,000	
Current service cost	100,000	132,000	
Interest cost	130,000	116,000	
Employee contributions	33,000	31,000	
Actuarial gain	(2,000)	(469,000)	
Benefits paid	(27,000)	(23,000)	
At 31 August 2024	2,683,000	2,449,000	
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2024	2023	
	£	£	
At 1 September 2023	2,921,000	2,552,000	
Interest income	154,000	110,000	
Actuarial gain	171,000	161,000	
Employer contributions	95,000	90,000	
Employee contributions	33,000	31,000	
Benefits paid	(27,000)	(23,000)	
At 31 August 2024	3,347,000	2,921,000	
Restriction on scheme assets	(664,000)	(472,000)	
Net assets recognised	2,683,000	2,449,000	

SKELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(30,304)	(84,577)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(30,138)	(29,410)
Investment income receivable	6	(5,821)	(57)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	5,000	42,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	18	(24,000)	6,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		87,622	109,333
(Loss)/profit on disposal of fixed assets		-	(189)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(3,189)	3,672
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(17,186)	36,777
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(18,016)	83,549

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2024 £
Cash	551,717	(14,314)	537,403

21 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations 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 academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

22 Members' liability

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

