

Company registration number 09218084 (England and Wales)

**ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

M Fairhall
Most Reverend J Wilson
P McCallum
G Ewing

Governors

M Fairhall (Chair of Governors)
V Maher (Accounting officer)
P O'Halloran (Chair of Audit & Resources)
S Anderson (Appointed 1 September 2023)
L Blyde
Reverend C Okafor
K Proctor
L Smith
S Tokoro
R Williams
J Winter
M Hill (Appointed 5 January 2024)

Senior management team

- Headteacher V Maher
- Deputy Headteacher R Williams
- Deputy Headteacher S Anderson
- School Financial Officer S Harris

Company secretary

S Harris

Company registration number

09218084 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Chelsfield Road
Orpington
Kent
BR5 4DR
United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
177-179 High Street
Orpington
Kent
BR6 0LJ
United Kingdom

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Winkworth Sherwood
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London
SE1 9BB
United Kingdom

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The academy operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11. St. Philomena's does not have a catchment area; the Governing Body set the admissions criteria in line with Diocesan guidance. It has a pupil capacity of 218 and had a roll of 210 in the school census September 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Governors are the trustees of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Governors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

St Philomena's Catholic Primary School was incorporated on 15 September 2014 and obtained Academy status from 1 October 2014.

Members' liability

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

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Academy is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

The members of the Academy Trust shall comprise the signatories to the Memorandum, three ex officio members being the Vicar General, Diocesan Financial Secretary and the Chair of Governors; any further person appointed by the Archbishop, the Chair of the Governors and any person appointed under Article 16.

The number of Governors shall be not fewer than 3, but shall not be subject to a maximum. The first Governors shall be those named in the initial Memorandum. The Academy Trust shall have the following Governors; eight Foundation Governor appointed under Article 50; Staff Governors appointed under Article 50A up to one third of the total number of governors; one Local Governor appointed under Article 51; Parent Governors elected or appointed under Articles 53-58 and the Headteacher. The Academy may also have up to two co-opted Governors, a person who is appointed to be a Governor by being co-opted by Governors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Governors may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Governor if the number of Governors who are employed by the Academy Trust would thereby exceed one-third of the total number of Governors (including the Headteacher).

Each of the persons entitled to appoint members above shall have the right, from time to time by written notice delivered to the Office, to remove any Member appointed by them and to appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy whether resulting from such removal or otherwise.

The term of office for any Governor shall be four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Headteacher subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, and Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Governors

During the period under review the Governors held five Governing Body meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors depends on their existing experience. All new Governors are given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. All relevant Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. As there are normally only two or three new Governors in a period, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

Organisational structure

The structure consists of three levels: the Governors, Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leaders, (including Assessment and Curriculum Leaders). The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, the two Deputy Headteachers and the School Business Manager. These leaders control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for senior leader posts will contain a Governor. No spending control is devolved to Curriculum Leaders and a Senior Leader must countersign.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Performance Management process takes place in the Autumn Term every academic year. The process involves a review of the targets set in the previous year, and the setting of targets for the forthcoming year. For the Deputy Headteacher, the appraisal is carried out by the Headteacher and any recommendations for increments in salary are then presented to the Pay Committee for approval.

For the Headteacher, the process is facilitated using an external consultant. Administration of these arrangements are carried out in accordance with 'School Teachers' Pay and Conditions' document (September 2022).

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy Trust is a member of the Bromley Catholic Schools Umbrella Trust. The Umbrella Trust is formed of seven of the eight Catholic primary schools in Bromley.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

St Philomena's Catholic Primary School is a mixed primary school. The pupils at the School are encouraged to be ambitious and achieve to their highest ability, whilst retaining a sense of who they are and what values are important in our society. We foster a genuine sense of respect for the individual alongside an appreciation of the culture and beliefs of others.

The principal object of the Academy is specifically restricted to the following: to advance the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum being St Philomena's Catholic Primary School.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below:

- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, delivery of the curriculum and care;
- to provide the best standard of education possible to ensure every pupil reaches their full potential and makes the best progress that they can;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum, quality of teaching and learning and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- to ensure teaching and learning is of the highest standard; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

St Philomena's Catholic Primary School values diversity and seeks to give everyone in the School an equal chance to learn, work and live, free from the action, or fear, of racism, discrimination, or prejudice. By our actions we will work together to develop the potential of all pupils academically, socially, culturally and psychologically and to establish a community that is just and fair for all people who work at or visit St Philomena's Catholic Primary School.

Pupils will be happy and healthy, enthused by the intellectual, social and physical challenges posed by their experience at school. They will be independent learners, aware of how to learn and of the role of emotions and dispositions in the learning process, which they draw on to address challenge and difficulty, as well as success.

All staff will have the opportunity to develop further as self-directed, reflective learners, through working collaboratively with others to enhance their own expertise and by engaging in high-quality professional development opportunities. Through their dedication and commitment, teachers will enthuse and inspire others to explore new ideas.

In the last year, the teaching staff have faced the additional challenge of teaching increasing numbers of children with complex additional learning needs. We aim to use financial resources appropriately to support these children but the pressures on our school budget are considerable.

Parents will fulfil their roles as true partners, recognising their role in the pupil - school - parent partnership to ensure that their child realises his/her potential.

Governors will contribute to the life of the School on a wider scale, acting as critical friends to support the School in achieving the highest standards of education and pastoral care.

Public benefit

The Governors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties which is met by having a published admissions criteria.

Full details of the Academy's admissions criteria can be found on its website at <http://www.st-philomenas.bromley.sch.uk>.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Assessment	% of children meeting	2023 Result	2024 National Average
EYFS – End of Reception Year	80%	90%	67%
Good Level of Development – (GLD)			
Year 1 Phonics Check	100%	97%	80%
End of KS1 (Year 2)			2023 NA
Reading – EXS	83%	81%	68%
Reading – GD	13%	33%	
Writing - EXS	80%	67%	60%
Writing - GD	10%	22%	
Maths – EXS	83%	89%	70%
Maths - GD	27%	41%	
	% of children meeting	2023 Result	2024 National Average
End of KS2 (Year 6)			
Reading – EXS	90%	76%	74%
Writing – EXS (TA)	83%	79%	72%
Maths – EXS	86%	72%	73%
Reading, Writing and Maths (combined)	79%	66%	61%
	% of children meeting	2023 Result	2024 National Average
Reading - GD	52%	38%	29%
Writing – GD (TA)	17%	14%	13%
Maths - GD	52%	38%	23%

Overall, St Philomena's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school and has made very good progress in identifying and closing the gaps for vulnerable pupils and groups of pupils. Outcomes continue to exceed national averages, demonstrating excellent teaching, learning and assessment.

Key performance indicators

The main KPI is the Ofsted Framework for Inspection

Inspectors must judge the quality of education provided in the School. This is the overarching judgement.

In order to make a judgement about the quality of education provided in the School, inspectors must first make four key judgements.

These are:

- the quality of education
- behaviour and attitudes
- personal development
- leadership and management

The Academy Trust was inspected by Ofsted in June 2023 when the school was judged to be 'Good'.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Going concern

The accounts are currently showing a deficit of £9k (2023: Surplus of £52k) with a bank balance at the year end of £34k (2023: £267k).

The Governors are currently in correspondence with the ESFA who have asked the Trust to confirm how it considers the school to be a going concern. The school's response includes the following key area:

Key Area 1 – School Resource Management Adviser Report (SRMA)

Following up on all the recommendations from the comprehensive SRMA Review carried out in June 2024 when all the school's financial data, key metrics and overall approach to resource management were looked at.

A working party has been formed to oversee and monitor the implementation of all actions resulting from the SRMA Review.

The school is reviewing how management accounts are prepared and presented to ensure that key information as to the financial performance of the trust is more easily understood and to ensure accurate and timely financial reporting to identify issues early and to enable informed decision-making. The budget is regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure alignment with current financial positions. Cash flow is monitored closely to ensure the school can meet its obligations.

Where appropriate Governors will be signposted to relevant training and resources on the Key For Governors and The National College (the school subscribes to both of these).

The school is reviewing The Institute of School Business Leadership budget planning assumptions and the Association of School and College Leaders budget planning assumptions to assist with accurate budget projections for future years.

The school is exploring upcoming ICFP training opportunities available in January 2025 to help with the school working towards embedding ICFP into its strategic planning to strengthen strategic decision-making.

The school regularly reviews contracts for value for money and ongoing suitability. The school energy contract has recently been reviewed and extended to 2030 at very competitive levels prior escalation due to conflicts in Middle East and the Ukraine.

The school is currently in discussion with the Archdiocese of Southwark with a view to joining a Multi Academy Trust. This is in line with the Archbishop's vision that all Single Academy Trusts in the Diocese are part of a Catholic Multi Academy Trust by September 2025. Currently the trust have not formally agreed any potential joining dates.

Careful consideration is taken to ensure the fabric of the building and any capital projects are given equal priority and viewed with equal importance.

Key Area 2 – Support from EFSA / DfE

The Accounting Officer and Finance Officer have initiated an ongoing dialogue with the DFE / ESFA to assist the school with current financial challenges. Meetings have taken place on 5th February 2024 and 20th November 2024 with a view to continuing these monitoring / support meetings for the foreseeable future. Through these meetings we have been informed that we should approach the DFE / ESFA should our cash flow concerns worsen.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key Area 3 – Additional Income

The position has been alleviated somewhat by the recent confirmation of an additional £23k funding for 2024/25 secured through the Core Schools Budget Grant.

The school is exploring opportunities for fundraising and additional grants that may be available to supplement income e.g. Mandarin Excellence Programme.

In recent years our revenue has been improved through regular lettings of the school premises to a Local Authority Scheme run through school holidays for children with additional needs; these are scheduled to continue for the next academic year. The school is also exploring opportunities to expand its hiring of school premises to the wider community through a venue hire platform to generate additional income. Growing numbers in wrap around care continue and the school will be applying to join a Breakfast Club Pilot Scheme to provide breakfast for all its pupils from April 2025.

Considering the above and after making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources and support to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and certainly up to the end of the Academic Year and beyond. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Financial review

Income

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, some of which are restricted to particular purposes. In addition to the GAG, the Academy received funds from the DfE/ESFA for Universal Infant Free School Meals, Pupil Premium, Supplementary Grant, PE and Sports Premium, Mainstream Schools Additional Grants and Rates. Other grant income included Local Authority Grants predominantly for High Needs and Early Years. Funding for educational operations from ESFA had increased from the previous year (2023: £1,163k and 2022: £1,066k) primarily due to an increase in GAG and supplementary grant.

The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (Charities SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Expenditure

During the period ended 31 August 2024 total expenditure of £1,530k (2023: £1,656k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the period was £39k (2023: £83k).

Summary

The total unrestricted funds carried forward had reduced to a net deficit position of £17k (2023: Surplus of £51k).

At 31 August 2024, the net book value of fixed assets was £8k (2023: £1k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The London Borough of Bromley Pension Fund, in which the Academy participates, showed a net balance of £nil (after asset ceiling adjustment) (2023: £nil) at 31 August 2024. Of this sum, £159k was inherited by the Academy from London Borough of Bromley on 1 October 2014, the date the local authority's staff transferred to employment with the Academy.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

The Governors review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. It has been determined that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves for 2023/24 should be £110k (2023 - £110k) based upon the three-year budget plan produced. This is reviewed on an on-going basis with reference to the needs and requirements of the school. The £110k reserve is made up of the following:

- £85k one month staffing costs
- £6k one month of building and occupancy costs
- £9k one month of other operating expenditure
- £10k to cover for emergencies

The school had a deficit on general reserves of £17k at 31 August 2024 (2023: Surplus of £51k). £8k of Fixed Assets are held in a restricted fund (2023 - £1k), resulting in total reserves of £9k (deficit) (2023 - Surplus of £52k).

The Governors action to cover the shortfall of reserves is set out in the Going Concern section of this report.

Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Academy has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the Governors see fit. The organisation has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses. The banking facilities are reviewed on a regular basis

Principal risks and uncertainties

Principal risks to the academy include :-

Risk Existing Controls to Manage

Failure to ensure that financial systems are secure Security systems operated by the Academy include:

- Off-site back up and storage and systems in place to recover data
- Achievement regularly monitored and additional support provided where necessary. Strategies in place to constantly improve the quality of teaching and learning. Individual targets generated through the performance management process. Termly reviews by our Umbrella Trust consultant.
- Experienced Senior Leadership Team and active Governing Body. All staff take an active role in the operation of the school. Effective School Development Plan.
- Maintaining a stable budget and reserves available to spend (see going concern section)

We have a Risk Register in place. Mitigating risks are discussed regularly at Governing Body meetings and the plan is updated on an annual basis.

School Premises and estate management is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance and a health and safety audit is carried out annually.

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. The Governors are introducing enhanced risk management systems, including operational procedures internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement on page 10.

Governors are aware of the increasing risk to schools around Cyber Security. Using the online toolkit provided by the National Cyber Security Centre, the Governing Body will ensure, over the coming year, that all risks are assessed and managed appropriately.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The main financial risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, taking account of the mitigations in place, relate to the risk of an income shortfall due to the likelihood of further government spending reductions affecting our general grant. A risk arises in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme, which has a balance of £nil at 31 August 2024 (2023: £nil). Additional supply staffing may be necessary to support increasing numbers of Reception children with high level of need. This is front loaded in anticipation of additional Local Authority funding, however, Local Authority funding is not sufficient to meet need, placing significant pressure on the School budget.

The school had a deficit on general reserves of £17k at 31 August 2024 (2023: Surplus of £51k). £8k of Fixed Assets are held in a restricted fund (2023 - £1k), resulting in total reserves of £9k (deficit) (2023 - Surplus of £52k).

The Governors action to cover the shortfall of reserves is set out in the Going Concern section of this report.

Plans for future periods

The Academy will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels.

The School has a sound understanding of its strengths and areas for development based on rigorous analysis of data and monitoring of teaching and learning. The School also makes extensive use of external validation to secure its judgement on the quality of provision and subsequent outcomes. The School Development Plan (SDP) has all the correct areas identified for improvement and is based on regular analysis of data which is meticulously analysed by the headteacher and the assessment leader, supported by the SLT. The SDP is regularly monitored and amended termly by the SLT and Governors. It is underpinned by appropriate budget links.

School Improvement strategies are having a consistent impact as the emphasis is sharply focused on teaching and learning and on pupil progress. The success of these is reflected in judgements of external reviews (school improvement partner, SEND and EYFS specialist consultants) and a very strong dataset. These are being addressed through rigorous monitoring, high-quality CPD and thorough analysis of test and Teacher Assessment data on a half-termly basis. The School makes very good provision for personalised learning and intervention programmes and has developed a rich, creative curriculum which supports, includes and challenges pupils across the ability range.

Auditor

In so far as the Governors are aware:

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

The governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M Fairhall
Chair of Governors

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that St Philomena's Catholic 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.

The Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between St Philomena's Catholic Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Premises, H & S

Items to be reviewed under these headings are considered by members of the Audit & Resources Committee. In the last year, they have looked into issues raised by our annual H & S audit/Risk Assessment updates provided by Safety Boss. They include maintenance needs that may be eligible for CIF funding e.g. new boilers, repairs to the roof and wooden cladding.

Standards Committee

This Committee oversee all areas of monitoring of teaching and learning. Each term, members consider analysis of internal and external progress and attainment data, feedback from a rigorous cycle of monitoring (lesson observations, work scrutinies etc.) and reports of discussions between governors and subject leaders.

Admissions Committee

This Committee meets when the list of applicants for Reception class is received from the Local Authority. Using the information provided on the Supplementary Information Form (SIF), they rank the applications using the agreed criteria detailed in the Admissions Policy. The agreed, ranked list is recorded and signed off by the members of the Committee and returned to the Admissions Department of the Local Authority.

Pupil Discipline

This Sub-Committee have not met for at least six years, as this was the last time they needed to consider a possible permanent exclusion.

Personnel

Issues around staffing are dealt with by Audit & Resources Committee and shared with the full Governing Body. Discussions include impact of staff resignations/appointments on standards of teaching and learning. They also include budget implications.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The Board of Governors has formally met three times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board Of Governors was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
M Fairhall (Chair of Governors)	2	3
V Maher (Accounting officer)	3	3
P O'Halloran (Chair of Audit & Resources)	3	3
S Anderson (Appointed 1 September 2023)	3	3
L Blyde	3	3
Reverend C Okafor	0	3
K Proctor	3	3
L Smith	3	3
S Tokoro	2	3
R Williams	3	3
J Winter	3	3
M Hill (Appointed 5 January 2024)	2	2

The Governing Body is very experienced and is made up of individuals with wide-ranging and appropriate skills. Governors attend training courses and make very good use on on-line resources such as The Key to enhance their skill levels. A skills audit is carried out regularly to identify gaps in necessary skills and is used to inform the recruitment of new Governors.

Membership of the Governing Body has been very stable for the last four years. During the reporting period, one new Governor was appointed. There is one vacancy for a Parent Governor. and steps are being taken to identify suitable candidates for appointment as additional Foundation Governors

Conflicts of interest

Declarations of interest are requested at every meeting.

Governance reviews

Governors devise an action plan at the beginning of each academic year. Targets on this action plan are directly linked to the priorities within the School Development Plan and, as a result, Governor monitoring visits and agendas of meetings are formulated to ensure a comprehensive overview of school improvement is achieved. The action plan is rag-rated as progress is made towards achieving the targets and reviewed at the end of the academic year in order to assess impact.

The main priority identified during the OFSTED visit, was to refine the curriculum for History and Geography to ensure structure and sequence included rigour and thoroughness, to ensure pupils developed the building blocks they need to grasp and master more complex ideas. A school improvement partner visit was organised to support leaders and a next steps action plan put in place, with progress followed up by the Standards Committee.

In the light of a decline in reserve balances in recent years and a forecast worsening of the school's financial position compared to budget over the course of the 2023/24 financial year, the School approached the ESFA for a School Resource Management Advisor to carry out a review to help identify ways of achieving greater efficiencies and enable better use of resources for the benefit of pupils. The focus of this review was on:

- Financial governance
- Financial health
- Integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP) and review of key metrics
- Costed recommendations

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The report has now been received by the Governing Body and its recommendations are being carefully considered by a working group which will report to the Governing Body. Any detailed costed options where we can achieve greater efficiencies and enable better use of resources for the benefit of pupils will be considered by the Governing Body for immediate implementation and will be considered when the budget for 2025/26 is prepared.

Safeguarding is discussed at each Governing Body meeting and any issues are followed up.

Progress towards achieving the targets on the action plan is then reviewed and rag-rated at the end of the year.

There are usually three full Governing Body meetings every year with additional meetings for planning and accountants review meeting, the Audit & Resources Committee meets termly and other ad-hoc committees (Admissions/Pay) convene when necessary.

All reports and data provided by the Senior Leadership Team and Finance Officer are of very good quality and furnish the Governing Body with the information required to fulfil their statutory duties and maintain effective oversight of funds.

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

- Budget monitoring, including ensuring value for money is achieved and exploring money saving procurement options both in our own academy and across the Trust;
- Staffing, pay and personnel matters;
- Renewal of contracts for cleaning and staff absence insurance;
- Oversight of SLAs;
- Expansion of lettings offer to generate additional revenue;
- Monitor and update policies relevant to the committee and to ensure compliance with the Financial Management Handbook.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
V Maher (Accounting officer)	4	4
P O'Halloran (Chair of Audit & Resources)	4	4
K Proctor	2	4
S Tokoro	4	4
R Williams	4	4

Review of value for money

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

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

- Allocating resources to best promote the aims and values of the school
- Targeting resources to best improve standards and quality of education
- The use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.
- Estate Safety and Management (RAC) being a priority

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St Philomena's Catholic Primary School for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Baxter & Co to complete the internal audit function. Baxter & Co's role includes giving advice on financial systems and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems.

In particular the checks carried out in the current period include:

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of Financial Reporting
- Review of Scheme of Delegation and high value purchases
- Review of Census Returns
- Review of Governance Requirements
- Review of Compliance with ESFA transparency requirements

Two internal audit visits were carried out during 2023-24. The first visit tested payroll systems, testing of Financial Reporting and the review of Hospitality. One medium priority recommendation was made with regards to financial reporting and one low priority recommendation was made with regard to payroll. The second visit tested Purchasing, Conflicts of Interest and Assurance Arrangements. Two low priority recommendations on Purchasing and Assurance Arrangements were made. All recommendations made during 2023-24 have been addressed.

GDPR

The School takes part in an annual GDPR audit with Judicium Education. The last audit was conducted remotely on 21st September 2023 and there were no urgent recommendations. All suggested updates to policy and practices are addressed by the Office Manager and overseen by the Headteacher. A comprehensive programme of CPD around GDPR is scheduled.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

School Improvement Partner. (SIP)

In collaboration with the other member schools of the Bromley Catholic Schools Umbrella Trust, the School engages the services of a SIP to carry out a cycle of school improvement visits across the academic year. The focus of these visits is agreed with the SIP at the beginning of the year and is both responsive to the needs of each individual school and closely linked to Ofsted expectations. This ensures the School is well-prepared for possible Ofsted inspections and is constantly reviewing provision for the children in the School. Reports from these visits are shared, once a term, with the full Governing Body and with the Bromley Catholic Schools Umbrella Trust Board.

Other reviews that took place within the year include:

Type of Review	Reviewer
Safeguarding	Internal Exec Head
Safeguarding	Internal review
Safeguarding	LB Bromley Authority
Health & Safety	Safety Boss
Support and Challenge Review-focused on quality of provision and outcomes, leading to areas for improvement	CEO and an external reviewer
Peer Review	Headteachers and leaders

The school has received the internal auditors and reviewers schedules of work planned and have considered the findings. There were no significant control issues arising as a result of the internal auditor's/ reviewer's work undertaken.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management process
- Correspondence with the ESFA in relation to financial reviews

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit & Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses 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 Governors 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 Governors on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M Fairhall
Chair of Governors

V Maher
Accounting officer

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Governors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estate safety and management.

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

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

V Maher
Accounting Officer

04 December 2024

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Governors (who act as trustees for St Philomena's Catholic Primary School and are also the directors of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' 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 Governors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the 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 Governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M Fairhall
Chair of Governors

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of St Philomena's Catholic 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 notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter on Going Concern

The Governors 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.

At 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust has negative funds and net current liabilities amounting to £9k (2023 - Surplus of £52k).

The Governors are in correspondence with the ESFA regarding the financial situation of the school but have yet to receive a formal response as to how the ESFA will support the school, however initial indications suggest support is available. After making appropriate enquiries and having reviewed and considered its Three Year Budget Plan as well as the monthly financial management reports produced by the School's finance team, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and certainly up to the end of the Academic Year and beyond. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. We draw your attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Governors 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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 Governors' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Governors' 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 Governors' 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:

- 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 Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the statement of Governors' responsibilities, the Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Scott Browning FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

18 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
United Kingdom
DA14 5RH

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 15 July 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 St Philomena's Catholic 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 St Philomena's Catholic 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 St Philomena's Catholic 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 St Philomena's Catholic Primary School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Philomena's Catholic Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 September 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Dated: 18 December 2024

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	93	16	17	126	288
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	2	1,355	-	1,357	1,278
Other trading activities	5	8	-	-	8	7
Total		<u>103</u>	<u>1,371</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1,491</u>	<u>1,573</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	80	1,444	6	1,530	1,656
Total	6	<u>80</u>	<u>1,444</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,656</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		23	(73)	11	(39)	(83)
Transfers between funds	16	(91)	95	(4)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	34	-	34	179
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(56)	-	(56)	(112)
Net movement in funds		<u>(68)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(16)</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		51	-	1	52	68
Total funds carried forward		<u>(17)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>(9)</u>	<u>52</u>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 £'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	63	6	219	288
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	28	1,250	-	1,278
Other trading activities	5	7	-	-	7
Total		98	1,256	219	1,573
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	7	29	1,626	1	1,656
Total	6	29	1,626	1	1,656
Net income/(expenditure)		69	(370)	218	(83)
Transfers between funds	16	(140)	359	(219)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	179	-	179
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(112)	-	(112)
Net movement in funds		(71)	56	(1)	(16)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		122	(56)	2	68
Total funds carried forward		51	-	1	52

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		8		1
Current assets					
Debtors	13	48		55	
Cash at bank and in hand		34		267	
		<u>82</u>		<u>322</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(99)		(271)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(17)		51
Net assets excluding pension asset			(9)		52
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total net (liabilities)/assets			(9)		52
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			8		1
- Pension reserve			-		-
			<u>8</u>		<u>1</u>
Total restricted funds			8		1
Unrestricted income funds	16		(17)		51
			<u>(9)</u>		<u>52</u>
Total funds			<u>(9)</u>		<u>52</u>

The accounts on pages 24 to 46 were approved by the Governors and authorised for issue on 04 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

M Fairhall
Chair of Governors

Company registration number 09218084 (England and Wales)

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	£'000	2023 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	19		(249)		(88)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		29		207	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(13)		-	
Net cash provided by investing activities			16		207
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(233)		119
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			267		148
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			34		267

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 Governors 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.

At 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust has negative funds and net current liabilities amounting to £9k (2023 - Surplus of £52k).

In response to the falling reserves the trust contacted the ESFA and requested an SMRA review. Based upon the recommendations a working party has been formed to address the points raised in the review.

The Governors are in correspondence with the ESFA regarding the financial situation of the school but have yet to receive a formal response as to how the ESFA will support the school, however initial indications suggest support is available.

The trust are also exploring options with the Archdiocese of Southwark about the potential of joining a Catholic Multi Academy Trust, although no decisions have been made on this.

After making appropriate enquiries and having reviewed and considered its Three Year Budget Plan as well as the monthly financial management reports produced by the School's finance team, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and certainly up to the end of the Academic Year and beyond. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Additional details can be found in the governors report in relation to going concern considerations and actions being made.

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

Donated goods, facilities and services

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the Academy Trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the Academy Trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's policies.

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing more than £1,000 or a group of the same assets amounting to more than £10,000 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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

The Academy Trust occupies land and buildings at Chelsfield Road, Orpington, BR5 4DR which are owned by the Trustees of the Church of England Archdiocese. The Academy Trust occupies the land and buildings under a licence on the same basis as when it was a maintained school. The continuing permission of the Diocesan Trustees is pursuant to and subject to the Trustees' charitable objects and is part of the Church of England commitment to provide state funded education in partnership with the state. Under the terms of an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Academy Trust the Diocesan Trustees will give the Academy Trust not less than two years' notice to terminate the occupation of the land and buildings. The Governors have concluded that the value of land and buildings occupied by the Academy Trust should not be recognised in the balance sheet as the Academy Trust does not have control of the premises.

Moreover, the Governors have decided not to account for the Academy Trust's occupancy of the land and buildings by means of a notional annual rental charge in the accounts, offset by income from a notional annual donation or gift of equivalent value from the Diocesan Trustees as owners of the freehold interest. The Governors have been unable to identify any objective method for calculating such a notional rent.

The academy has a legal arrangement for the use of the land and buildings under a church supplemental agreement. This is a rolling agreement with a minimum two years written notice period for termination, no such notice has been given at the date of signing the accounts.

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

Computer equipment	33.33%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20%

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 Governors.

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education 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.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 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 pension value also includes an asset ceiling adjustment and the assumptions used to calculate this are:

- The scheme is open to new entrants;
- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to the 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 value in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

Critical areas of judgement

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the computers and fixtures and fittings, and note 1.5 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Capital grants	-	17	17	219
Other donations	93	16	109	69
	<u>93</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>288</u>

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,055	1,055	1,009
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
UIFSM	-	32	32	30
Pupil premium	-	53	53	48
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	35	35	15
Teachers pay grants	-	18	18	-
PE and sports premium	-	18	18	18
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	29
Others	-	15	15	14
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,163</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	129	129	87
Other incoming resources	2	-	2	28
Total funding	<u>2</u>	<u>1,355</u>	<u>1,357</u>	<u>1,278</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Hire of facilities	8	-	8	5
Other income	-	-	-	2
	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	889	-	105	994	989
- Allocated support costs	318	83	135	536	667
	<u>1,207</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,656</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Operating lease rentals	3	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	6	1
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	13	10
- Other services	2	3
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(7)	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	37	957	994	989
Support costs				
Educational operations	43	493	536	667
	<u>80</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,656</u>

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	318	240
Depreciation	6	1
Technology costs	10	11
Premises costs	77	298
Legal costs	12	13
Other support costs	88	85
Governance costs	25	19
	<u>536</u>	<u>667</u>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Analysis of grant expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust	-	11	11	210

During both the current and prior year the trust incurred costs on diocesan property for roofing and cladding works. These costs were met by a combination of capital grants and academy trust contributions.

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Wages and salaries	875	761
Social security costs	82	71
Pension costs	201	189
Staff costs - employees	1,158	1,021
Agency staff costs	49	99
Staff development and other staff costs	2	2
Total staff expenditure	1,209	1,122

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	10	9
Administration and support	19	20
Management	4	4
	33	33

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

9 Staff

(Continued)

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	8	7
Administration and support	13	13
Management	3	3
	<u>24</u>	<u>23</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer national insurance and pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £281k (4 people) (2023: £221k - 3 people).

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Governors' remuneration and expenses

The Headteacher and other staff Governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Governors. Other Governors did not receive any payments from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Governors.

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

V Maher (Headteacher):

- Remuneration £85,001 - £90,000 (2023: £85,001 - £90,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £20,001 - £25,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)

R Williams:

- Remuneration £35,001 - £40,000 (2023: £30,001 - £35,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £5,001 - £10,000)

J Weatherall (Resigned 20 May 2023):

- Remuneration £nil (2023: £10,001 - £15,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £nil (2023: £1 - £5,000)

S Anderson (Appointed 1 September 2023):

- Remuneration £50,001 - £55,000 (2023: £nil)
- Employer's pension contributions £10,001 - £15,000 (2023: £nil)

M Hill (Appointed 4 January 2024):

- Remuneration £20,001 - £25,000 (2023: £nil)
- Employer's pension contributions £5,001 - £10,000 (2023: £nil)

The other staff Governors listed above only received remuneration for their role as a member of staff.

During the year, expenses of £421 (2023: £342) were reimbursed to Governors. Expenses related to the reimbursement of academy related expenditure.

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

11 Governors' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Governors 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 £1k (2023: £1k).

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost			
At 1 September 2023	61	5	66
Additions	13	-	13
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 August 2024	74	5	79
	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	60	5	65
Charge for the year	6	-	6
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 August 2024	66	5	71
	-----	-----	-----
Net book value			
At 31 August 2024	8	-	8
	=====	=====	=====
At 31 August 2023	1	-	1
	=====	=====	=====

13 Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
VAT recoverable	9	12
Other debtors	3	-
Prepayments and accrued income	36	43
	-----	-----
	48	55
	=====	=====

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	7	-
Other taxation and social security	16	15
Other creditors	24	20
Accruals and deferred income	52	236
	-----	-----
	99	271
	=====	=====

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	39	27
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	27	24
Released from previous years	(27)	(24)
Resources deferred in the year	39	27
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	39	27
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

At the balance sheet date, the Academy was holding funds received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals - £19k (2023; £18k), LA Free School Meals - £11k (2023; £nil), school journeys - £3k (2023; £3k) and after school club payments - £6k (2023; £6k).

16 Funds

	Balance at			Gains,	Balance at
	1 September	Income	Expenditure	losses and	31 August
	2023	£'000	£'000	transfers	2024
	£'000			£'000	£'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,055	(1,150)	95	-
UIFSM	-	32	(32)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	53	(53)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	86	(86)	-	-
Other government grants	-	129	(129)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	16	(16)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	22	(22)	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	-	1,371	(1,444)	73	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	-	17	-	(17)	-
General fixed assets	1	-	(6)	13	8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	1	17	(6)	(4)	8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total restricted funds	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	1	1,388	(1,450)	69	8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	51	103	(80)	(91)	(17)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total funds	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	52	1,491	(1,530)	(22)	(9)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy.

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

Income received from the ESFA as follows: UIFSM, Pupil Premium, Mainstream Schools Additional Grants, Teachers pay funding, PE and Sports Premium.

Other DfE/ESFA grants: This includes the Teachers pension funding, Rates Grant, Recovery Premium, National Professional Qualification and National Tutoring grant.

Other government grants: other grants: This includes SEN funding, Matrix Funding, Pupil Premium plus funding and Sports funding received from the Local Authority.

DfE / ESFA capital grants: This includes Devolved Formula Capital and Capital Improvement Funding (CIF).

Other restricted funds: This includes restricted donations.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,009	(1,368)	359	-
UIFSM	-	30	(30)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	48	(48)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	76	(76)	-	-
Other government grants	-	87	(87)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	6	(6)	-	-
Pension reserve	(56)	-	(11)	67	-
	(56)	1,256	(1,626)	426	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	-	219	-	(219)	-
General fixed assets	2	-	(1)	-	1
	2	219	(1)	(219)	1
Total restricted funds	(54)	1,475	(1,627)	207	1
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	122	98	(29)	(140)	51
Total funds	68	1,573	(1,656)	67	52

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8	8
Current assets	10	72	-	82
Current liabilities	(27)	(72)	-	(99)
Total net assets	(17)	-	8	(9)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1	1
Current assets	25	297	-	322
Current liabilities	26	(297)	-	(271)
Total net assets	51	-	1	52

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 London Borough of Bromley. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £20k (2023: £19k) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

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.

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC 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 £126k (2023: £97k).

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 21.7% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £90k.

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 £'000	2023 £'000
Employer's contributions	90	82
Employees' contributions	22	20
Total contributions	112	102

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

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

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.7	21.7
- Females	24.1	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.7	22.7
- Females	25.7	25.7

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(19)	(16)
Mortality assumption + 1 year	23	19
CPI rate - 0.1%	(19)	(16)

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Scheme assets	1,261	1,050
Scheme obligations	(1,093)	(938)
Net asset	168	112
Restriction on scheme assets	(168)	(112)
Total liability recognised	-	-

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £'000	2023 Fair value £'000
Equities	708	655
Other bonds	139	84
Cash	97	29
Government bonds	34	26
Property	74	65
Other assets	209	191
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	1,261	1,050
Restriction on scheme assets	(168)	(112)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	1,093	938
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £123,000 (2023: £(171,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	75	92
Interest income	(59)	(51)
Interest cost	52	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amount recognised	68	93
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	938	1,187
Current service cost	75	92
Interest cost	52	52
Employee contributions	22	20
Actuarial loss/(gain)	30	(401)
Benefits paid	(24)	(12)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	1,093	938
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	1,050	1,131
Interest income	59	51
Actuarial (gain)/loss	64	(222)
Employer contributions	90	82
Employee contributions	22	20
Benefits paid	(24)	(12)
	<u>1,261</u>	<u>1,050</u>
At 31 August 2024	1,261	1,050
Restriction on scheme assets	(168)	(112)
	<u>1,093</u>	<u>938</u>

Included within the pension assets above is an "asset ceiling adjustment". The asset ceiling is the present value of the economic benefits that the employer can recover from the plan, such as reduced contributions or cash refunds. It is deemed for the Trust that the future costs expected for the employers contributions will outweigh the future service costs and therefore there is no economic benefit to the Trust and therefore the asset value is reduced to zero.

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

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(39)	(83)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(17)	(219)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	(15)	10
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	18	(7)	1
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		6	1
(Increase) in debtors		(5)	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(172)	202
		<u>(249)</u>	<u>(88)</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
Cash	267	(233)	34
	<u>267</u>	<u>(233)</u>	<u>34</u>

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	3	3
Amounts due in two and five years	4	6
	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

22 Capital commitments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	14
	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>

The commitments above are in relation to roofing/cladding works that have been funded by capital grants and contributions by the trust.

23 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Expenditure related party transactions

G Hill, brother of Trustee M Hill provided gardening work to the school in the year totalling £4k (2023 - £nil). Amounts due to G Hill at 31 August 2024 were £nil (2023 - £nil).

The academy trust made the purchase at arms' length following a tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which M Hill neither participated in, nor influenced.

In entering into the transaction the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook.

24 Members' liability

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