

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

**Davenant Foundation
School**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2024

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
07540256 (England and Wales)

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Reference and administration information

Members	G Anthony N Lee-Johnston (from 10 October 2023) D Prosser S Temple
Trustees/Governors	A Allen G Anthony (Chair of Governors) (1) C Cantle A Crombie C Davies O Fatoye (until 22 January 2024) C Folkes (2) J Goldsworthy C Hands N Lee-Johnston (Chair of Finance Committee) (1) (2) D Nelson D Prosser (1) H Smith (2) S Temple (Vice Chair of Governors) (1) A Thorne
Key to committees	(1) Member of Standing Committee (2) Member of Finance Committee
Head Teacher	A Thorne
Company Secretary	J Beaumont
Senior Leadership Team	A Thorne – Head Teacher D Lake – Deputy Head Teacher (until 31 August 2024) J Dennison Deputy Head Teacher (from 1 September 2024) S McVittie 9from 1 September 2024) E Browne – Assistant Head Teacher (until 31 August 2024) B Chahil - Assistant Head Teacher (from 1 September 2024) J Escott – Assistant Head Teacher K Fisher – Assistant Head Teacher D Parker – Assistant Head Teacher J Beaumont – Chief Financial Officer (from 1 September 2024)

Reference and administration information

Clerk to the Governing Body J McCallig

Registered address Davenant Foundation School
Chester Road
Loughton
Essex
IG10 2LD

Company registration number 07540256 (England and Wales)

Auditor Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers Lloyds plc
11 The Broadway
Loughton
Essex
IG10 3SW

Solicitors Winckworth Sherwood LLP
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London
SE1 9BB

The governors of Davenant Foundation School ('the School') present their statutory report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 33 to 37 of the attached financial statements and comply with the School's memorandum and articles of association, applicable laws and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The School 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 School.

Members of the charitable company comprise:

- ◆ the signatories to the Memorandum, the Chair of Governors, the Vice Chair of Governors and the Chair of the Finance Committee; and
- ◆ appointments made under Article 16 of the Academy's Articles of Association: Mrs S Temple and Mr D Prosser.

Change of Status

On 1 September 2024 the academy became a Church of England academy with new Articles of Association, a supplemental agreement between the Church of England, the Secretary of State for Education and the academy, and a Deed of variation to the Funding Agreement. The relationship and supplemental agreement with the Whitechapel Educational Foundation remain unchanged. The new Articles specify that the members of the company comprise:

- ◆ the Diocesan Corporate Member
- ◆ the Chair of Governors, the Vice Chair of Governors and the Chair of the Finance Committee; and
- ◆ additional members as the members see fit, with the written consent of the Diocesan Corporate Member,

There must be a majority of Members who are not also Governors.

Governance arrangements

The governors act as trustees for charitable activities of Davenant Foundation School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Davenant Foundation School.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Governance arrangements (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of governors

Until 31 August 2024 the School's Governing Body comprised

- ◆ 3 staff governors, 3 parents of students at the School, the Headteacher (ex-officio), 11 Foundation governors and 2 governors appointed by the Governing Body through an application and interview process. From 1 September 2024 the structure changes to 3 parents of students at the School, the Headteacher (ex-officio), 11 Foundation governors and co-opted governors.

Governors' indemnities

The School is a member of the ESFA's Risk Protection Arrangements which provides £10 million cover for governors' liability. The cost of this is met from a £23 per student charge for all cover provided; it is not possible to separately identify the cost of governor cover.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of governors

Governor recruitment is geared to fill skill gaps on the Governing Body. Therefore the training and induction provided for new governors will depend on their existing experience. All new governors receive general induction, including a tour of the School and the chance to meet with staff and students. Key staff and governors meet with them to provide an introduction to the school and the work of the Governing Body, and safeguarding, cyber security and GDPR training. Further induction is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters as required. Governors are given the Induction Pack (a suite of key documents) and registered with Essex Governor Services and the National Governors Association so that they can receive updates and opportunities for training. No governors joined the Board during the year. When considered necessary due to developments in the sector, update sessions are held for the whole board of governors.

Organisational structure

The School's organisational structure consists of four levels: the members, the governors, the sub-committees and the Senior Leadership Group.

The Standing Committee comprises the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, and the Chairs of each Committee. They meet to strategically plan the work of the Governing Body and co-ordinate the work of the other Committees. The governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The governors meet regularly during the year.

Specific responsibilities have been delegated to the committees by the governors. In line with the Academy Trust Handbook requirements, the Finance/Audit Committee presents to the board a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance that its financial and others controls, and risk management procedures, are operating effectively. To meet the requirement to separate internal scrutiny and external audit, the contract for 2023-24 was awarded to Juniper Education.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Governance arrangements (continued)

Organisational structure (continued)

The Senior Leadership Group includes the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers. The Senior Leadership Group implements the policies as laid out by the Governors and, as authorised, takes day-to-day decisions on all matters that relate to the smooth running of the School's operations including set-up of operational systems, staff appointments, budget monitoring and stakeholder engagement.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are governed by the School's Pay Policy. The policy complies with the School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document ('STPCD') and the accompanying statutory guidance and with national and local pay agreements for support staff. The Governing Body has established a Salaries Committee and a Salaries Appeals Committee which have fully delegated powers to make decisions on pay, and (except in relation to the Headteacher's pay) will be advised by the Headteacher as appropriate.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	0

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£0
Total pay bill	£5.4 million
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0%

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Trade union facility time (continued)

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:

0%

(total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100

Members' liability

Each member of the School 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.

Governors

The following governors served throughout the period or subsequently joined the Board:

Governor	From/until	Category	Appointing body
A Allen		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
G Anthony		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
C Cattle		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
A Crombie		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
C Davies		Foundation	Ex-officio (Rector of Loughton)
O Fatoye	Until 22 January 2024	Staff	Staff
C Folkes		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
J Goldsworthy	Until 8 July 2024	Community	Governing Body
J Goldsworthy	From 8 July 2024	Foundation	Governing Body
C Hands		Community	Governing Body
N Lee-Johnston		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
D Nelson		Parent	Parent Body
D Prosser		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
H Smith		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
S Temple		Foundation	Whitechapel Education Foundation
A Thorne		Headteacher	Ex-officio (Headteacher)

No governors have joined the Governing Body in the 2023-24 academic year: One staff governor has left. Six vacancies remain: One Community, two parent and three staff governors (as per the former Articles). Vacancies were deliberately held pending the structure required by the new Articles. Under the new Articles there are 2 parent vacancies and recruitment will now take place to fill these.

The Board met regularly during the year and is well supported by an effective Committee structure: The Standing Committee (chairs of Committees) oversees the work of the Governing Body; the other Committees are Audit, Finance & Risk, Curriculum, Estates, and Admissions. As a Single Academy Trust the Board finds this an effective model to use.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Governors (continued)

There are two charities whose trustees are also governors of the School, the Reynolds Fund and the Whitechapel Educational Foundation.

The Reynolds Fund and Whitechapel Educational Foundation are charities established to assist in the provision of facilities and activities at the School not normally provided for by Government funding. The School does not have the right to appoint trustees to either charity, or to alter their governing documents.

Decisions on how the funds of each are spent are taken independently by the trustees at separate meetings. The School, on occasion, makes information available to the charities to assist their operation. The charities consider this information but remain independent in their decision making concerning the application of their funds and thus there is no exercise of dominant influence by the School. As a result the governors have concluded that there is no requirement for the preparation of consolidated accounts.

Risk management

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances. The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, cyber security and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to manage the risks to which the School is exposed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects, aims and objectives

In setting the School's objectives and planning its activities, the Governing Body has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The objects of the School are to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad curriculum for students between the ages of 11 to 18.

The School has adopted the policies approved by the Secretary of State for Education. These policies specify, among other things, the basis for admitting students to the School and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum, albeit with the School able to exercise freedoms which allow it to offer alternatives to the National Curriculum if this is deemed appropriate.

The whole school aims are that Davenant will be a school where:

- ◆ All staff and students feel safe and secure.
- ◆ All students make outstanding progress.
- ◆ All students are sensitive to the world in which they live.
- ◆ All students have a passion for lifelong learning and are fully prepared for life after school.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Objects, aims and objectives (continued)

- ◆ All staff are supported to fulfil their potential.
- ◆ The school manages its resources for the long term to benefit all its community.

The School's main strategy is encompassed in its mission statement which is:

'Reflect the love of God in all aspects of the community by nurturing mind, body and spirit'.

Notable achievements during 2023-24 were:

- ◆ Excellent A level and GCSE results and progress (analysis on next pages)
- ◆ Continued Teaching & Learning Professional Development to improve the understanding of how students learn
- ◆ High student participation in extra- curricular activities
- ◆ Strong staff recruitment and retention during challenging circumstances

Key Performance Indicators

Number of students on roll	
Whole school	1257
Year 7	182
Year 12	166
Student/Teacher Ratio	18
Teacher cost per student	£4,071
Education Support costs per student	£789
Other support staff cost per student	£976
Non pay cost per student	£1,200
Total cost per student	£7,037
ESFA income as % total income	87%
Staff costs as % of total income	84%
Total income per student	£7,011
Total GAG income per student	£6,119
Average teacher cost (incl. NI and pension)	£72,907

Year 13 (2023/2024) Actual Results

Whole Cohort

176 Pupils

82 Boys

94 Girls

Summary

All

A*-A

A*-B

A*-C

A*-D

A*-E

Entries

Count

Weighted

All

578

-

540.1

-

A*-A

162

28.03%

144.9

26.83%

A*-B

308

53.29%

281.9

52.19%

A*-C

440

76.12%

405.4

75.06%

A*-D

539

93.25%

501.8

92.91%

A*-E

571

98.79%

533.1

98.7%

A Level

Students in Scope:

173

98.3%

Avg Points / Entry:

35.49

-

Expressed As A Grade:

B-

-

Value Added Score

+0.09

-

3+ A levels at A*-E:

166

95.95%

2+ A levels at A*-E:

173

100%

AAB (2+ Facilitating):

26

-

In Scope:

173

-

Entries

Count

Weighted

All

521

-

521

-

A*-A

137

26.3%

137

26.3%

A*-B

269

51.63%

269

51.63%

A*-C

388

74.47%

388

74.47%

A*-D

483

92.71%

483

92.71%

A*-E

514

98.66%

514

98.66%

Applied General

Students in Scope:

0

0%

Avg Points / Entry:

0

-

Expressed As A Grade:

-

-

Value Added Score

0

-

Entries

Count

Weighted

All

0

-

0

-

A*-A

0

0%

0

0%

A*-B

0

0%

0

0%

A*-C

0

0%

0

0%

A*-D

0

0%

0

0%

A*-E

0

0%

0

0%

Academic

Students in Scope:

175

99.43%

Avg Points / Entry:

35.67

-

Expressed As A Grade:

B-

-

Value Added Score

+0.09

-

Entries

Count

Weighted

All

578

-

540.1

-

A*-A

162

28.03%

144.9

26.83%

A*-B

308

53.29%

281.9

52.19%

A*-C

440

76.12%

405.4

75.06%

A*-D

539

93.25%

501.8

92.91%

A*-E

571

98.79%

533.1

98.7%

Tech Level

Students in Scope:

0

0%

Avg Points / Entry:

0

-

Expressed As A Grade:

-

-

Entries

Count

Weighted

All

0

-

0

-

A*-A

0

0%

0

0%

A*-B

0

0%

0

0%

A*-C

0

0%

0

0%

A*-D

0

0%

0

0%

A*-E

0

0%

0

0%

Tech Bacc

Achieved

0

0%

Tech Bacc Breakdown

All Pupils

0%

Tech Scope

0%

Tech Level

0

0%

L3 Maths

0

0%

Ext Project

0

0%

Best 3 A Levels

Students In Scope

173

98.3%

Students with 3 A Levels

173

100%

Cohort Score

35.45

B-

L3 Maths

In Scope

176

(100%)

Achieved

0

(0%)

Year 11 (2023/2024) Actual Results

Whole Cohort

Pupils

182 Pupils 94 Boys 88 Girls

Baccalaureate

86

86 Pupils Entered - 47.25%

26.92%
Standard Pass
49/182

20.33%
Strong Pass
37/182

Baccalaureate Subjects

	Eng	Ma	Sci	Hums	Lang
Entries	181	181	181	173	87
	99%	99%	99%	95%	48%
Standard	165	154	155	132	55
	91%	85%	85%	73%	30%
Strong	143	131	126	110	46
	79%	72%	69%	60%	25%

Summary

4.87	0.45	0.08	-0.64
APS	Sci VA	Hums VA	Lang VA

English

	Entries	9 to 7	9 to 5	9 to 4
	181	57	143	165
Pupils	99.45%	31.32%	78.57%	90.66%
Entries	-	31.49%	79.01%	91.16%

Maths

	Entries	9 to 7	9 to 5	9 to 4
	182	59	131	154
Pupils	100.00%	32.42%	71.98%	84.62%
Entries	-	32.42%	71.98%	84.62%

Science

		Pupils	Entries
1 Science	182	100.00%	-
Grade 4+	155	85.16%	85.16%
2 Sciences	181	99.45%	-
Grade 4+	155	85.16%	85.64%
3 Sciences	94	51.65%	-
Grade 4+	87	47.80%	92.55%
Bio/Chem/Phys	62	34.07%	-
Grade 4+	61	33.52%	98.39%

MFL

		Pupils	Entries
1 MFL Entry	87	47.80%	-
Grade 4+	55	30.22%	63.22%
2 MFL Entries	3	1.65%	-
Grade 4+	2	1.10%	66.67%

English & Maths Threshold

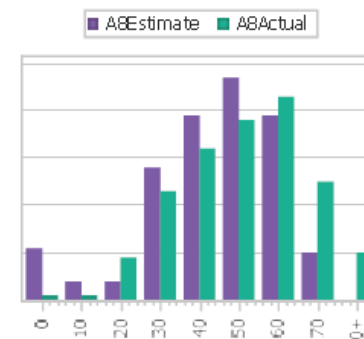
Both Subjects	17%	31	20	5+
	<5	12	16	4+
	<4	7%	9%	
English Only				
Maths Only	3%	5	149	4+
	4+	8	123	5+
	5+	4%	68%	
Both Subjects				

181 Pupils Entered - 99.45%

Entries

9 to 8 - inc A*'s	(12.77%)
209	
9 to 7 - inc A*-A	(26.15%)
428	
9 to 5 - inc A*-B	(67.38%)
1103	
9 to 5 - inc A*-C	(67.50%)
1105	
9 to 4 - inc A*-C	(81.55%)
1335	
Total	1637.00
Average	8.99

Progress 8



	A8	P8
English	11.46	+0.31
Maths	11.07	+0.42
EBacc	16.41	+0.44
Other	16.29	+0.42

Overall 55.23 +0.4

Filled Slots 175 96.15%

2.95	2.99
Avg EBacc	Avg Other

Performance

	Pupils	Percent
5 Grade 4+	151	82.97%
Inc EnMa:	144	79.12%
5 Grade 5+	122	67.03%
Inc EnMa:	114	62.64%

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial report for the period

The majority of the School's income for the year ended 31 August 2024 was obtained from the ESFA in the form of a general annual grant. GAG income totalled £7,040k (2023 – £6,715k) and represents 76% (2023 – 77%) of the total income received in the period. This includes 16-19 Core funding of £1,650 (2023 – £1,671).

Expenditure was £9,357k (2023 – £9,427k) on the School's educational operations and includes £23k (2023 – £22k) on governance costs.

During the year the School incurred an overall deficit of £249k (2023 – £80k surplus), but this includes a surplus of £59k (2023 – 750k surplus) in the pension reserve and a £277k deficit (2023 – £772k surplus) in the restricted fixed asset fund due to depreciation charges. This results in an overall fund balance of £3,478k (2023 - £3,727k).

	Opening Balance 1st Sept 2023 £000	Movement during the Year £000	Balances at 31 st Aug 2024 £000
Buildings and Assets Under Construction	3,274	(271)	3,003
Fixed Asset Fund	140	15	155
Total Restricted Fixed Assets	3,414	(261)	3,158

LGPS deficit	(59)	59	-
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Restricted Funds:

<i>Epping Forest Consortium</i>	6	-	6
<i>Sports Partnership</i>	24	(14)	10
<i>West Essex School Sports Association</i>	-	1	1
<i>Olympics Legacy Fund</i>	1	(1)	-
Total Restricted Funds	31	(14)	17

Unrestricted Funds:

'Free' reserves	337	(53)	284
Earmarked funds	83	(8)	75
Salix loan	(79)	23	(56)
Total Unrestricted Funds	341	(38)	303
TOTAL	3,727	(249)	3,478

The results for the year are shown on page 29. See also note 14 on page 46.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Reserves policy

At 31 August 2024 the School had unrestricted funds of £303k (2023 – £341k). This includes internal commitments to departmental budgets, teacher training initiatives and other specific school projects amounting to £75k (2023 - £83k) and the Salix loan liability of £56k – *see below* (2023 £79k), leaving unrestricted reserves at £289k.

As reported above, the overall funds position as shown on the balance sheet on page 30 is a surplus of £3,478k (2023 £3,727k surplus).

The School has entered into two agreements with SALIX: in 2018 to fund the installation of energy efficient lighting and in 2023 as part of the replacement classroom project. The loans are repayable over 8 years and, given its long term nature and that the School will fund repayments as they fall due, it has been calculated it has free reserves at 1 September 2024 to be £289k (2023 - £337k) represented by net current assets.

The way in which the School is being funded will continue to put severe pressure on the use of its resources and it will be an ongoing challenge to safeguard standards and properly meet its charitable objectives. For the year ending 31 August 2024, the School initially set a deficit budget of £115k (2023 - initial deficit of £115k). Therefore free reserves are expected to be maintained in the short term and medium terms.

The School has previously expressed an aspiration to have reserves at a level close to one month's salary costs, around £500,000. The School was budgeting to increase free reserves to this level over the coming few years, but this aim is now being side-lined whilst we manage funds to retain an overall positive position. For the present, the level of free reserves held is adequate for that purpose.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it considers that the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements is appropriate.

Investment policy

Governors have agreed an investment policy that allows the investment of surplus funds in risk free deposit accounts. Where funds are not readily accessible an assessment must be made to ensure that the school can meet its outgoings whilst the funds are on deposit.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTANTIES

At this stage, the principal risks of the School that have been subject to detailed review are:

- ◆ the current financial challenges – staffing costs in the midst of a recruitment crisis, increased demands for pastoral and learning support - in the context of funding received for Davenant characteristics
- ◆ Managing the school estate, in the light of structural defects in the 6th form centre building, necessitating a rebuild
- ◆ The effect of lower year 12 student numbers in 2021 on funding for 2023-24
- ◆ Maintaining student recruitment in both years 7 and 12
- ◆ Increased pressure on Student Services
- ◆ Increased difficulties in staff recruitment
- ◆ Ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, in particular GDPR.
- ◆ Threat of cyber-attacks and other security breaches

The following actions have been taken to mitigate against the risks listed above:

- ◆ The budget is scrutinised on an ongoing basis to identify in year savings and react to any changed circumstances
- ◆ Temporary classrooms and a new sixth form centre will be funded by 'insurers' (Risk Protection Arrangements)
- ◆ The academy has continued its development of Student Services provision to meet the increased demand to tackle issues with student wellbeing and SEND students
- ◆ Successful marketing, favourable reputation and parental feedback ensured that 2024 year 7 recruitment was on target
- ◆ The Compliance Officer and Link Governor adherence to relevant regulations, in particular Health and Safety, School trips and the Data Protection regime has resulted in successful audits in these areas.

FUNDRAISING

The academy has not undertaken fundraising during the year. The Reynolds (Private Fund) and the Parents' Association fundraise and provide welcome support to the academy.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The latest Development Plan covers the period 2021- 2026. Its targets relate to:

- ◆ Quality of Education
- ◆ Behaviour, Attitudes and Participation
- ◆ Personal Development
- ◆ Leadership and management
- ◆ School Environment

The key priority intended outcomes include:

- ◆ All staff and students feel safe and secure
- ◆ All students make outstanding progress because there is high quality teaching.
- ◆ All students make outstanding progress because of a rich extra and co-curricular offer.
- ◆ All students make outstanding progress because needs are clearly recognised, barriers removed and opportunities given.
- ◆ Students feel safe because there is a clear behaviour policy in place which is implemented consistently to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment
- ◆ Students feel safe and supported and can overcome barriers to accessing curriculum because there is a fully integrated Student Service offer.
- ◆ School is financially sound due to robust budget management ensuring that reserves are within Government expectations.
- ◆ Students are engaged and progressing due to an adaptive curriculum that identifies the needs of different cohorts.

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.

Governors' report approved by order of the members of the board of governors and signed on its behalf by:



Chair of Governors - G Anthony

Date: 10 December 2024

Scope of responsibility

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Davenant Foundation 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 to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the School and the Secretary of State for Education. The Headteacher is also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the Academy Trust Governance Guide. As part of the governor recruitment process, significant work was undertaken to identify skill shortages and ensure the successful candidates filled these gaps.

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the governors' report and in the statement of governors' responsibilities.

September 2023 to August 2024

4 meetings of the Board and 1 training session took place during 2023-24. Committee meetings continued to be mainly held virtually and it is pleasing to report that all governors were able to continue their participation.

The Governing Body has formally met 4 times during the year in addition to a training event. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body was as follows:

Governor	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
AM Allen	3	4
G Anthony (chair)	4	4
C Cattle	3	4
A Crombie	4	4
C Davies	4	4
O Fatoye	1	2
C Folkes	4	4
J Goldsworthy	3	4
C Hands	2	4
N Lee Johnson	4	4
D Nelson	2	4
D Prosser	4	4
H Smith	4	4
S Temple	4	4
A Thorne	4	4

September 2023 to August 2024 (continued)

The Standing Committee has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year was as follows:

Governor	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Anthony (chair)	4	4
C Davies	3	4
N Lee Johnson	3	4
D Prosser	4	4
S Temple	4	4
A Thorne	4	4

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is to make decisions that will enable compliance with governors' approved budgets and policies, legislation and regulation. It is responsible to the Governing Body through the Standing Committee. The Finance Committee has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year was as follows:

Governor	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
C Cattle	5	5
C Folkes	5	5
J Goldsworthy	4	5
C Hands	3	5
N Lee Johnson	5	5
H Smith	2	5
A Thorne	5	5

There was 1 resignation from and 0 new appointments to the membership of the Governing Body during the year. Under the new Articles there are currently 2 parent governor vacancies on the Governing Body.

Governance reviews

The governance structure is currently under review to meet the requirements of the new Articles of Association. The Governing Body has completed a skills audit which is used in the governor appointment process, in conjunction with the recruitment policy. A whole board in person training event took place which provided an opportunity for the Headteacher to update governors on current developments and time was given to long term planning.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the School 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 trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year, and reports to the Governing Body where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

Review of value for money (continued)

The Accounting Officer for the School has delivered and improved value for money during the year by:

- ◆ Carefully managing the budget in the light of difficult demands arising from increased staff absence, high pay awards and increased pension contributions. For example, when staff absence was high due to illness, external supply cover was minimised by flexibly using the existing workforce. Any spare capacity in the teaching timetable was allocated to cover absent colleagues and classes were covered jointly to minimise bought in supply teachers;
- ◆ A carefully constructed timetable that minimised spare capacity in tandem with the financial plan along the lines of Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning;
- ◆ Annual Performance Management meetings for all staff to ensure that the workforce is working together to achieve the school objectives;
- ◆ Analysis of pupil performance data with curriculum leaders to determine the emphasis required to maximise students' learning;
- ◆ Scrutiny of financial data including regular budget reports, reports from the external auditor and Internal Scrutiny reviews;
- ◆ Meetings of the Governing Body with close scrutiny of the School Development Plan; and
- ◆ As part of the cyclical review of contracts, the School uses the services of procurement specialists to review significant contracts.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the School's 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 at the School for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Governing Body has reviewed the key risks to which the School is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Governing Body is of the view that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the School's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

The risk and control framework

The School'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 Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- ◆ setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- ◆ clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- ◆ delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- ◆ identification and management of risks.

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and for 2023-24 commissioned Juniper Education Services, to undertake a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the board that its financial and other controls, and risk management procedures, are operating effectively. The Finance/ Audit Committee received 3 comprehensive reports during the year; a number of useful recommendations were made to enhance the systems in place, but none identified a major issue of concern.

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 internal scrutiny reviews;
- ◆ the work of the external auditor;
- ◆ the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- ◆ the work of the Chief Financial Officer within the School, who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance Committee and a plan to address any identified weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust requires all individuals identified as needing to complete a register of business interests to confirm the details held are accurate on an annual basis. All individuals are notified of the requirement to inform the Trust of any changes to their register at the earliest possible time and this is contained within the governance documents of the Trust.

Conflicts of Interest (continued)

All committee and board meeting agendas have, as standing items, the requirement to confirm the presence of any conflicts and, going forward, also that the registers are up to date.

The academy plans to perform spot checks via Companies House to check the accuracy of details held.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the Governing Body and signed on their behalf by:



(Chair of Governors) - G Anthony

Approved on 10 December 2024



(Headteacher and Accounting Officer)

A Thorne

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance Year to 31 August 2024

As Accounting Officer of Davenant Foundation School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the School Governing Body and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the School and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

I confirm that I and the School Governing Body are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the School, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the School'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 governing body and ESFA.



Accounting Officer - A Thorne

Date: 10 December 2024

Statement of governors' responsibilities Year to 31 August 2024

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

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

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023-2024;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the School will continue in operation.

The governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the School's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the School 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 School applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Governing Body and signed on its behalf by:



Chair of Governors - G Anthony

Date: 10 December 2024

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the members of Davenant Foundation School

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Davenant Foundation School (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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), 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) (the Charities SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its income and expenditure, for the period 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 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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report including the strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;
- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, and the academy trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;
- ◆ we understood how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings and papers provided to the trustees.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of trustees' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- ◆ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

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



Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

13 December 2024

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Davenant Foundation School and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 3 October 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education & 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 Davenant Foundation School during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Davenant Foundation School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Davenant Foundation School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 August 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 year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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.

Approach (continued)

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

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the School's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

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



Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 13 December 2024

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Restricted funds			2024 Total funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
		Unrestricted general fund £'000	General funds £'000	Fixed asset funds £'000		
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	1	260	—	207	467	299
Charitable activities						
. Funding for the School's educational operations	2	—	8,043	—	8,043	7,626
Other trading activities	3	612	—	—	612	753
Investments	4	1	—	—	1	—
Total income		873	8,043	207	9,123	8,678
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
. School's educational operations		906	7,939	484	9,357	9,427
Total expenditure	5	906	7,939	484	9,357	9,427
Net (expenditure) income		(33)	76	(277)	(234)	(749)
Transfer between funds		(5)	(16)	21	—	—
Other recognised losses and gains						
Actuarial (loss) gain on defined benefit pension scheme	18	—	(15)	—	(15)	829
Net movement in funds		(38)	45	(256)	(249)	80
Reconciliation of funds						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September		341	(28)	3,414	3,727	3,647
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August		303	17	3,158	3,478	3,727

All of the Academy's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2024 £'000	2023 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10		3,117		3,353
Current assets					
Debtors	11	365		308	
Cash at bank and in hand		782		756	
		<u>1,147</u>		<u>1,064</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(753)		(575)	
Net current assets			394		489
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,511</u>		<u>3,842</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13		(33)		(56)
Net assets excluding pension scheme liability			<u>3,478</u>		<u>3,786</u>
Pension scheme liability	18		—		(59)
Total net assets			<u>3,478</u>		<u>3,727</u>
Funds of the School					
Restricted funds					
. Fixed assets fund	14		3,158		3,414
. Other restricted funds	14		17		31
. Pension reserve	14		—		(59)
Total restricted funds			<u>3,175</u>		<u>3,386</u>
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund	14		303		341
Total funds			<u>3,478</u>		<u>3,727</u>

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

The financial statements on pages 29 to 53 were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on 10 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf, by:



Glynne Anthony
Chair of Governors

Davenport Foundation School – Company Registration Number 07540256 (England and Wales).

The notes on pages 38 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	88	188
Cash flows from investing activities	B	(39)	13
Cash flows from financing activities	C	(23)	(28)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		26	173
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		756	583
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	D	782	756

A Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash provided by operating activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net expenditure for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	(234)	(749)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	484	893
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(207)	(94)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	—	—
Interest receivable	(1)	—
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(67)	49
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(7)	30
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(57)	330
(Decrease) increase in creditors	177	(271)
Net (cash used) provided by in operating activities	88	188

B Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(247)	(81)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	207	94
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	—
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(39)	13

C Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	(23)	(28)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	—	—
Net cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities	(23)	(28)

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2024

D Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	782	756
Total cash and cash equivalents	782	756

E Analysis of cash and changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £'000	Cashflows £'000	At 31 August 2024 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	756	26	782
Loans falling due within one year	(23)	—	(23)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(56)	23	(33)
Total change in net debt	677	49	704

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2024

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.

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

The financial statements have been presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Going concern

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

Income

All income is recognised when the School 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.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2024

Grants (continued)

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.

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 School has provided the goods or services.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the School; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2024

Taxation

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

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Long-term leasehold property	-	5% straight line
Furniture and equipment	-	25% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

Debtors

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

Cash at bank and in hand

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

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2024

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 School 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.

Operating leases

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

Pensions

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

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

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

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

Fund accounting

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

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2024

Fund accounting (continued)

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The School 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 net book value of tangible fixed assets is based on the original cost/value of the asset net of provision for depreciation. The depreciation provision to date is based on the trustees' assessment of the estimated useful economic lives of such assets.

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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

Other than the estimates discussed above, the governors do not consider that there are any key judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

1. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	2024 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	—	207	207
Donated fixed assets	—	—	—	—
Other donations	260	—	—	260
	260	—	207	467

	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed assets funds £'000</i>	<i>2023 Total funds £'000</i>
<i>Capital grants</i>	—	—	94	<i>94</i>
<i>Donated fixed assets</i>	—	—	—	<i>—</i>
<i>Other donations</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>205</i>
	178	—	121	299

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

2. Funding for the School's academy trust educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2024 Total funds £'000
ESFA revenue grants			
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	5,317	5,317
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
. 16-19 Core Funding	—	1,723	1,723
. Pupil Premium	—	162	162
. Recovery Premium	—	32	32
. Others	—	420	420
	—	7,654	7,654
Other Government grants			
. Local authority grants	—	279	279
. Special educational projects	—	57	57
	—	336	336
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	—	53	53
	—	8,043	8,043

All income is included within restricted funds for both 2024 and 2023.

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
ESFA revenue grants			
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	4,995	4,995
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
. 16-19 Core Funding	—	1,720	1,720
. Pupil Premium	—	160	160
. Others	—	330	330
	—	7,205	7,205
Other Government grants			
. Local authority grants	—	268	268
. Special educational projects	—	49	49
	—	317	317
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	—	53	53
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Recovery Premium	—	32	32
Other DfE/ESDA Covid-19 funding	—	19	19
	—	51	51
	—	7,626	7,626

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

3. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2024 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities/lettings income	82	—	82
Income from other charitable activities	107	—	107
Income from ancillary trading activities	423	—	423
	<u>612</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>612</u>
	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
<i>Hire of facilities/lettings income</i>	70	—	70
<i>Income from other charitable activities</i>	148	—	148
<i>Income from ancillary trading activities</i>	535	—	535
	<u>753</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>753</u>

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2024 Total funds £'000
Short term deposits	1	—	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>

5. Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		2024 Total funds £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
School's educational operations				
. Direct costs	5,968	484	665	7,117
. Allocated support costs (note 6)	1,391	533	316	2,240
	<u>7,359</u>	<u>1,017</u>	<u>981</u>	<u>9,357</u>
	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		2023 Total funds £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
<i>School's educational operations</i>				
<i>. Direct costs</i>	5,490	893	780	7,163
<i>. Allocated support costs (note 6)</i>	1,357	600	307	2,264
	<u>6,847</u>	<u>1,493</u>	<u>1,087</u>	<u>9,427</u>

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

5. Expenditure (continued)

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2024 Total funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
Operating leases	29	17
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	—	—
Depreciation	484	893
Fees payable to auditor		
. Audit	18	16
. Other services	3	3

6. Analysis of support costs

	2024 Total funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
Direct costs – educational operations	7,117	6,772
Support costs – educational operations	2,240	2,264
	9,357	9,036

	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Support staff costs	1,391	1,367
Technology costs	62	53
Premises costs	533	600
Legal costs – other	—	4
Other support costs	231	228
Governance costs	23	22
Total support costs	2,240	2,274

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

6. Comparative information

Analysis of income and expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2023 between restricted and unrestricted funds:

	Notes	Unrestricted general fund £'000	Restricted funds		2023 Total funds £'000
			General funds £'000	Fixed asset funds £'000	
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations and capital grants	1	178	—	121	299
Charitable activities					
. Funding for the School's educational operations	2	—	7,626	—	7,626
Other trading activities	3	753	—	—	753
Total income		931	7,626	121	8,678
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Charitable activities					
. School's educational operations		794	7,740	893	9,427
Total expenditure	4,5	794	7,740	893	9,427
Net (expenditure) income		137	(114)	(772)	(749)
Transfer between funds		—	(21)	21	—
Other recognised losses and gains					
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme	18	—	829	—	829
Net movement in funds		137	694	(751)	80
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September		204	(722)	4,165	3,647
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August		341	(28)	3,414	3,727

7. Staff costs

Staff costs and other employee benefits during the period were:

	2024 Total funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000
Wages and salaries	5,367	5,050
Social security costs	541	505
Pension costs	1,268	1,224
	7,176	6,779
Supply teacher costs	183	68
Staff restructuring costs	—	—
	7,359	6,847

b) Severance payments

The academy trust paid no severance payment in the year (2023 - 0)

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

7. Staff costs (continued)

c) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £ nil (2023 - £ nil).

The average number of persons (including the senior management team) employed by the School during the year ended 31 August 2024 as expressed as average headcount was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	76	78
Administration and support	96	94
Management	8	6
	180	178
	2024 FTE.	2023 FTE.
Teachers	65	66
Administration and support	52	52
Management	7	6
	124	124

The number of employees whose annualised emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	6	4
£70,001 - £80,000	4	—
£80,001 - £90,000	—	1
£100,001 - £110,000	—	—
£110,001 - £120,000	—	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	—

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the School comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the School was £855,215 (2023 - £762,281).

8. Governors' and Officers' insurance

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

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

9. Related party transactions – Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. If this is not the case, payments must be disclosed separately. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
A Thorne – Headteacher and Trustee		
. Remuneration	120-125	110-115
. Employer's pension contributions	30-35	25-30
C Folkes – Staff Trustee		
. Remuneration	20-25	30-35
. Employer's pension contributions	5-10	5-10
O Fatoye, Staff Trustee		
. Remuneration	15-20	40-45
. Employer's pension contributions	0-5	10-15

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land & buildings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Asset under construction £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	8,406	625	—	440	9,471
Additions	—	13	168	66	247
Disposals	—	—	—	(219)	(219)
At 31 August 2024	—	638	168	287	9,499
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	5,194	501	—	423	6,118
Charge in year	420	54	—	9	484
Disposals	—	—	—	(219)	(219)
At 31 August 2024	5,614	555	—	214	6,383
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	2,792	83	168	74	3,116
At 31 August 2023	3,212	124	—	17	3,353

For the purposes of these financial statements, the land is deemed to have no commercial value. Leasehold buildings are included at a depreciated replacement cost value.

11. Debtors

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade debtors	80	68
VAT recoverable	34	14
Prepayments and accrued income	251	226
	365	308

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	65	29
Taxation and social security	123	112
Loan amounts due in one year	23	23
Other creditors	173	161
Accruals and deferred income	369	250
	753	575
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 31 August	121	244
Amounts released in the year	(121)	(244)
Resources deferred in the year	209	121
Deferred income at 31 August	209	121

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance for various educational and sporting activities.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salix loan	33	56
	33	56
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Analysis of loans		
Wholly repayable within five years	56	79
Less: included in current liabilities	(23)	(23)
Amounts included above	33	56
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	23	23
In more than one year but not more than two years	33	56
	56	79

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

14. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'0000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	7,040	(7,024)	(16)	—
. Pupil premium	—	162	(162)	—	—
. Catch-up premium	—	32	(32)	—	—
. Other grants	31	809	(823)	—	17
. Pension reserve	(59)	—	74	(15)	—
	(28)	8,043	(7,967)	(31)	17
Restricted fixed assets fund					
. Other Fixed Assets	2,517	—	(354)	—	2,163
. DfE/ESFA Capital grants	685	195	(78)	5	807
Local Authority Capital grants	—	6	—	—	6
. Capital expenditure from GAG	14	—	(14)	16	16
. Private sector capital - sponsorship	198	6	(38)	—	166
	3,414	207	(484)	21	3,158
Total restricted funds	3,386	8,250	(8,451)	(15)	3,175
Unrestricted funds					
. General unrestricted funds	341	873	(906)	(5)	303
Total unrestricted funds	341	873	(906)	(5)	303
Total funds	3,727	9,123	(9,357)	(15)	3,478

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

14. Funds (continued)

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

- i Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the School was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.
- ii Pension reserve relates to the School's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension scheme managed by Essex Pension Fund.
- iii Restricted fixed assets funds were funded by government grants and donations to fund capital expenditure.
- iv Other funds relate to monies received for specific purposes

Comparative information

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 £'0000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	6,715	(6,715)	—	—
. Pupil premium	—	160	(160)	—	—
. Catch-up premium	—	32	(32)	—	—
. Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	—	19	(19)	—	—
. Other Covid-19 funding	—	19	(19)	—	—
. Other grants	87	681	(716)	(21)	31
. Pension reserve	(809)	—	(79)	829	(59)
	(722)	7,626	(7,740)	808	(28)
Restricted fixed assets fund					
. Other Fixed Assets	2,881	—	(364)	—	2,517
. DfE/ESFA Capital grants	1,022	94	(452)	21	685
. Capital expenditure from GAG	55	—	(41)	—	14
. Private sector capital - sponsorship	207	27	(36)	—	198
	4,165	121	(893)	21	3,414
Total restricted funds	3,443	7,747	(8,633)	829	3,386
Unrestricted funds					
. General unrestricted funds	204	931	(794)	—	341
Total unrestricted funds	204	931	(794)	—	341
Total funds	3,647	8,678	(9,427)	829	3,727

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2024 Total £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	3,116	3,117
Current assets	308	802	37	1,147
Current liabilities	—	(753)	—	(753)
Non-current liabilities	—	(33)	—	(33)
Pension scheme liability	—	—	—	—
Total net assets	308	17	3,153	3,478

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2023 Total £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	3,353	3,353
Current assets	341	662	61	1,064
Current liabilities	—	(575)	—	(575)
Non-current liabilities	—	(56)	—	(56)
Pension scheme liability	—	(59)	—	(59)
Total net assets	341	(28)	3,414	3,727

16. Capital commitments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	107	289

17. Commitments under 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	18	10
Later than one year and not later than five years	57	13
	75	23

18. Pension commitments

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

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

Contributions amounting to £155k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £130k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million. The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

18. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £951k (2023 - £819k).

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 contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £481k (2023 - £444k), of which employer's contributions totalled £385k (2023 - £356k) and employees' contributions totalled £96k (2023 - £88k). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25% for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2023, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on the GOV.UK website.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80%	3.90%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.80%	2.90%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.05%	5.35%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80%	2.90%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	—	50.00%

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

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	20.7
Females	23.3	23.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.0
Females	24.7	24.6

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

18. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

	At 31 August 2024 £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
Sensitivity analysis		
Discount rate +0.1%	334	301
Discount rate -0.1%	(352)	(317)
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(355)	(320)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	332	299
CPI rate +0.1%	(353)	(317)
CPI rate -0.1%	334	301

The Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000
Equity instruments	3,275	2,994
Gilts	101	66
Other bonds	—	—
Property	409	403
Cash	100	151
Alternative assets	870	815
Other managed funds	1,074	718
Total market value of assets	5,829	5,147
Present value of scheme liabilities		
. Funded	(5,829)	(5,206)
Deficit in the scheme	—	(59)

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities		
Current service costs (net of employer contributions)	318	49
Interest income	(278)	—
Interest cost	271	27
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	(385)	—
Admin expenses	3	3
Total operating charge	(71)	79

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Analysis of pension finance income (expenditure)		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	278	204
Interest on pension liabilities	(271)	(231)
Pension finance income (expenditure)	7	(27)

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2024

18. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

Changes in the net pension liability were as follows:	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	56	809
Current service cost	318	405
Employer's contributions	(385)	(356)
Net interest and admin costs	4	27
Net actuarial gain/(loss)	7	(829)
	<u>—</u>	<u>56</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	5,206	5,389
Current service cost	318	405
Interest cost	271	231
Employee contributions	96	88
Changes in financial assumptions	195	(1,158)
Change in demographic assumptions	(12)	(101)
Benefits paid	(395)	(9)
Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	(26)	361
Impact of asset ceiling	176	—
At 31 August 2024	5,829	5,206

Changes in the fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets:	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2023	5,147	4,580
Admin expenses	(3)	(3)
Interest income	278	204
Return on assets less interest	321	(69)
Employer contributions	385	356
Employee contributions	96	88
Benefits paid	(395)	(9)
At 31 August 2024	5,829	5,147

19. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is possible 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 School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. No related party transactions occurred in respect of governors.

Davenant Foundation School The Reynolds (School Private) Fund (Charity Registration Number 292223) is a connected charity. Income totalling £173,900 (2023 - £174,394) from the Foundation has been included for the period to 31 August 2024, £12,899 is included in debtors at 31 August 2023 (2023 - £18,057).

The Whitechapel Educational Foundation (Charity Registration Number 312698) is a connected charity. Income totalling £98,715 (2023 - £32,724) from the Foundation has been included for the period to 31 August 2024. £14,325 (2023 - £nil) included in debtors at 31 August 2024. The Foundation is also the freehold landlord of the School's land and buildings. The School is party to a supplementary agreement between the ESFA and the Foundation for the use of the land and buildings. This agreement would terminate should the School's funding agreement cease to be in place or upon reasonable notice from the Foundation.

19. Agency arrangements

The School distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust received £18,280 (2023 - £16,720) and disbursed £10,614 from the fund. An amount of £39,617 (2023 - £31,951) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

20. Members' liability

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