



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2024

Company Registration Number:
07721932 (England and Wales)

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Contents

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	3
Governance Statement	20
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	25
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	26
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	27
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	31
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account	34
Balance Sheet	35
Statement of Cash Flows	36
Notes to the Financial Statements	37

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

Rt Rev Egan
Rev Canon J J McAuley
Rev Canon P J Smith
Mrs H Hauschild
Mrs M Breen

Trustees

Mr M D Evans, Chair of trustees¹
Mr W Layton²
Mgr. J Garratt¹
Mrs N E Burnett¹
Mrs G Rennicks¹
Mrs L Holford²
Mr N Parker²

¹ Foundation

² Community

Company Secretary

Mr T S A Finch

Senior Management Team

Mr M Quinn	Chief Executive Officer and Headteacher, Oaklands Catholic School
Ms U Clark	Headteacher, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
Mrs A Bonnington	Deputy Headteacher
Ms S Whyte	Deputy Headteacher
Mr D Godwin	Director of Sixth Form Learning/ Assistant Headteacher
Mr M Bamford	Assistant Headteacher
Dr M Dixon	Assistant Headteacher
Mr T S A Finch	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Business and Finance

Company Name

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Principal and Registered Office

Oaklands Catholic School
Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO7 7LT

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Company Registration Number

07721932 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House

Mayflower Close

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO53 4AR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc

38 London Road

North End

Portsmouth

PO2 0LR

Legal advisors

Hampshire Legal Services

Hampshire County Council

E11 South

The Castle

Winchester

SO23 8UJ

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust, formally known as The Catholic Academy Trust in Havant, was formed in 2011 with Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College being the only school in the Trust. In early 2021 the Trust applied and was successful in achieving Academy Sponsor status. Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School joined the Trust on conversion to academy status on 1 April 2021. Oaklands Catholic School is situated within large grounds in Waterlooville, Hampshire and has 1151 pupil in the main school and 210 students in the Sixth Form. Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is situated within a residential area of North End, Portsmouth and has 315 pupils attending. It also runs an extended schools programme before and after normal school hours.

In January 2024 the Catholic Diocesan Board of Trustees advised of their plan to convert all Catholic Schools within the Portsmouth Diocese to Academy Schools. The aim is to have two Trusts, one in the north of the Diocese and one in the south. Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust will act as the lead trust for the south of the Diocese. Work has already started to engage with all of the schools identified for conversion and the other single academy trusts for merger with Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust. The Trust's strategy document has been updated and a growth plan approved by the Trust Directors to facilitate the Bishop's direction. The Trust has entered into a £70,000 contract with a Project Management company specialising in academy conversions and trust mergers. The Trust has also undertaken a sizeable internal reorganisation at significant cost in order to facilitate the capacity for growth.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust.

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

Members' Liability

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

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice Oaklands Catholic School has purchased insurance through Zurich Municipal Insurance Plc to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. This provision will continue to be compared against that provided by the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to ensure Value for Money. Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School currently remains bought into the RPA.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

In accordance with the arrangements set out in the Trust's articles and funding agreement, the Members of the Trust Company are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to be responsible for the affairs and management of the Trust. The trustees are the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation and all Foundation Trustee appointments are approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Due consideration is given to key skills which trustees will bring to the Board to ensure the Trust Company has access to a broad range of expertise. The Secretary of State may appoint trustees in exceptional circumstances. No appointments were made by the Secretary of State in 2023/24. Trustees may be removed by the person who appointed them. All trustees are appointed for a four-year term. Separate arrangements are in place for the election of Local Governors to serve on the Local Governing body of each school within the Trust.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

New trustees are provided with appropriate induction and training in accordance with the Trust's induction policy. This commences with an induction meeting with the Chair of trustees and Chief Executive Officer prior to attending their first meeting. Following this the new trustee is assigned a mentor to provide support and guidance through their first year in position. The Trust will provide training through the Diocesan Catholic Academies and Schools Office (CASO), the Local Authority Governor Services team and any independent consultants, for example Health and Safety, tailored to suit their individual requirements.

Organisational Structure

The Trust is governed by the Board of trustees who delegate functions as appropriate to the Local Governing Bodies. The trustees exercise their powers and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic role in the running of the Trust and support and challenge the Senior Management Team in their responsibilities for the day to day management of the organisation. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility, increase accountability and encourage involvement in decision making at the appropriate level. The Chief Executive Officer acts as accounting officer and there is a clear structure of delegation detailed in the Scheme of Delegation document which is reviewed and approved annually.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining the Catholic ethos of the schools within the Trust, setting statutory policies, compliance with Health and Safety legislation, risk management, adopting an annual budget, monitoring the financial position of the academy by the use of budgets and making significant decisions about the direction of the Trust, and senior staff appointments.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure (continued)

The terms of reference for the Board of trustees and associated committees are reviewed and approved on an annual basis. The list of financial delegated authorities forms an appendix to the ESCAT Finance Policy.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust considers its key management personnel to be members of the Senior Management Team, Senior Leadership Team and trustees. The pay and performance targets for the CEO and CFO are subject to the scrutiny of the Performance Management Panel, which includes an independent panel member not connected with the Trust. Trustees are not remunerated for their time but have agreed an Expenses Policy to enable them to claim out of pocket expenses in order to fulfil their duties. The Trust has published a pay and remuneration statement which has been approved by the trustees.

Trade union facility time

The Trust has no employees who were relevant Union officials in the period ending 31 August 2024.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Havant federation of schools which consists of seven secondary schools and a local education centre work together to provide education in the local area. As a soft federation the operating policies of each school remain individual and there are no legal obligations between parties. The Trust works closely with the network of Catholic secondary and primary schools within the Diocese of Portsmouth. The network aims to share policy and procedure to support the Catholic education of students within the Diocese. Each Academy within the Trust has a service level agreement with the Diocese that provides support on issues of Governance, administration, leadership and management and admissions.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is to provide a Catholic education for students of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 18. In accordance with the Articles of Association the Charitable Company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academies within the Trust, the areas from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum. The trustees will ensure that the unique ethos of Catholic education is maintained through an emphasis on the importance of each student as an individual and the need to focus on and promote the spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, social, personal and cultural development of each young person.

In April 2021 the Trust expanded to include Corpus Christi Catholic Primary school in Portsmouth. The Trust adopted a revised strategy document in June 2024 which encompasses the Trust's mission and vision statements. This process was supported by both Local Governing bodies. The Trust continues to encompass the values of Catholic education where transmission of the Gospel values is integral to the distinctiveness of the school community and where everyone is encouraged to aspire to high levels of attainment.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Objects and Aims (continued)

The Trust welcomes pupils from all backgrounds and the admissions policy ensures that an individual's economic status, gender, ethnicity, race or disability do not form part of our assessment processes. We are an equal opportunity organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. We will make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or students who are or become disabled.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Parents are given regular information about their children's social and academic progress through parent evenings in addition to the traditional end of year reports. Regular contact with parents is maintained throughout the year through informal contacts and through newsletters and individual school websites. School Councils ensure that the views of the students are taken seriously.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The growth of the Trust heralded a myriad of changes and developments which have been reflected in the Trust's strategic planning. Foremost, the re-energising of the Trust's vision, mission and values to reflect this growth has called on all members of the Trust to reflect on and articulate the core values and manner in which the enlarged organisation has to function. At the same time, we recognise that our core function is to provide the very best educational provision for our young people.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has formally advised that it wishes to expand the number of schools in the Trust. The Diocese published its proposed academy structure in early 2024. Over the last year ESCAT has scoped the work required to expand the trust, this has included preliminary conversations with a number of schools.

Aside from working with the Diocese on the expansion of the Trust, ESCAT remains ambitious in its aims for schools already in the Trust; both schools are drawn together through our Catholic mission, and we want them to reap the full benefits of collaboration and sharing of best proven practice. The Trust believes that its schools should be distinctive and rooted within their parish and local communities. We intend to maintain the distinctive nature of each of the schools whilst sharing recognised good practice across the board to build an established Trust of excellence. The executive team works alongside school leaders, providing support and challenge. Both schools already recognise the benefits from having established a core services platform including finance, human resources and IT which not only takes advantage of economies of scale but allows the sharing of resources and best practice.

We are committed to providing all pupils, especially those who are disadvantaged with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need to flourish as human beings; no one should be left behind. Our work is inspired by the Gospels; the message of Jesus Christ is threaded through all that we do. We aim to provide a distinctively Catholic education, with Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church central to all we do.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Our schools aim to work together to:

- Provide the best quality education to all their pupils
- Place the knowledge and love of Christ at the centre of all involved in the educational endeavour.
- Help all its pupils to become saints.
- Prepare our pupils for adulthood, through an ever deepening and transformative relationship with Jesus Christ, that they may discern their true vocation and grow in holiness.

To meet these aims our strategy will focus on:

- Catholic Life and Mission
- Achieving potential
- Outward Looking Servants
- Securing the Future of our Schools
- Stewardship of the Environment

Our full strategy document was revised in the Summer of 2024.

Priorities for 2023-2024:

1. Promotion of Catholic life

The trust recognises the role it plays in promoting the Tenants of the Catholic church. That said the number of students actively involved in Catholic activities outside of school continues to be a concern. The number of Catholic applicants to Oaklands has not improved in the 2023/24 academic year. Both schools are focusing on Catholic Social Teaching both as a specific activity and within curriculum to promote Catholic values. This is in addition to the numerous other events organised across schools to promote our unique ethos.

2. Managing restricted budgets

Those who are in senior leadership positions were acutely aware that 2023/24 would see schools placed under significant financial pressures. Funding cuts and rising costs has put increased pressure on the Trust. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to have an impact on many families, with a knock-on effect on other areas. Despite this, Trust schools have supported families even when central funding has not been available for this endeavour. Our schools continue to offer a wide and varied curriculum both in and out of the classroom.

3. Teacher retention & recruitment

A key theme across Trust schools has been managing staff shortages. Although both schools have relatively low turnover rates, difficulties remain in recruiting specialist teaching staff. Problems also exist in recruiting support staff, particularly in areas that are not well remunerated. Some positions, when advertised attracted no candidates. Notwithstanding this both schools have attracted high quality specialist staff to most positions.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

4. Preparation for external tests, exams and assessments

This year was the second year post-COVID that the exams return to 'normal' yet the impacts of lost learning and absences are still being felt, whilst teachers feel under pressure to maintain or improve results. Both schools produced development plans with a significant focus on preparing students of end of Key stage tests and examinations.

Corpus Christi engaged an external consultant to undertake deep dive into areas of school life. The outcome of the visit was very positive confirming that the school is taking robust action to improve KS2 outcomes.

At Oaklands the school developed a robust system to evaluate the quality of education. All subject areas were reviewed three times across the course of the year. The outcome of these reviews were shared with the Local Governing body who have been appraised of the school monitoring systems.

5. External Quality control

Corpus Christi continued to work hard to prepare for inspection and in June 2024 were rated a 'Good' school at Ofsted. Senior leaders were able to demonstrate that significant improvements have been made, particularly in areas identified in the last inspection. Leaders are not complacent; the school SEF identifies areas where further gains can be made.

At Oaklands the focus has moved to Section 48. The Catholic life of the school will be inspected under the new Catholic School inspection framework. The school has authored a robust evaluation document

6. Student mental health

Trust schools have noticed an increased number of student mental health issues, this is contributing to higher absence levels and poor behaviour in some students. Both schools have nuanced their behavioural systems and have accessed external support where available. Both schools have started an extensive piece of work to promote mental health and wellbeing.

Public Benefit

The Trust provides free education for 4-18 year olds in the North End, Portsmouth and Havant, Waterlooville and surrounding areas under the DfE Academies programme. Oaklands also provides the only 16-19 education in a Catholic faith environment in the region. In setting the objectives and aims of the Trust, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees confirm that during the period ending 31 August 2024 they have ensured that all decisions made in the course of discharging their duties have been made with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that this Trustees' Report confirms how this has been achieved.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Review of Activities Specific to a Catholic Life and Mission

The Trust continues to work at drawing its community into a deeper communion with God through a stronger understanding, experience and practice of faith. The schools within the Trust form an inclusive Christian community deeply rooted in the values of the Gospel. All members of the community share the mission of the Diocese, with a sense of community pride permeating the atmosphere.

Oaklands Catholic School - September 2023-August 2024

- Oaklands School website now captures the variety of activities that contribute to the Catholic life of the school.
- Start of term mass staff started with an extended liturgy and a renewal of the commitment to Catholic education for staff.
- The school appointed a temporary chaplain to maintain provision during a period of maternity leave.
- Focus this year on 'The Cross of Christ' and what this means, staff have been given formation at the September INSET. All lessons start with the sign of the cross.
- Inset focussed on the charism of the founding order and the legacy this has left.
- Feast day Mass celebrated on 14th September, students also provided with a commemorative gift to note the special day. The praise and worship band sung during Mass.
- Early morning staff mass has been offered to the local community this has been well attended.
- Second cultural week occurred in the Autumn to celebrate the beauty of the diverse nature of the school community, this year a performance was also provided to parents.
- Student leaders, buddies and the Student 4 Student group have been commissioned.
- Student visits to local Primary School to help them with Liturgy preparation continue.
- Range of activities have commenced in the Chapel.
- Subject work on Catholic Social teaching has been captured on the school website and departmental reviews. Each department has a Catholic Social teaching champion.
- The celebration of the eucharist is a regular feature, our thanks to the local clergy .
- Students have visited local parishes on holy days of obligation this has been well received by the wider community.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Corpus Christi Primary School – September 2023-August 2024

- Celebrated the school's feast day with a Corpus Christi Fiesta. Families from across the world displayed artefacts and food from their culture, came dressed in cultural dress and performed dances and songs.
- Continued to develop a wide range of opportunities to support pupils' spiritual development, including Eucharistic Adoration for Years 5 and 6, Penitential Liturgies during Advent and Lent, celebrations of Holydays alongside whole school, phase and class prayer and worship.
- Develop pupil planning, leading and evaluating worship.
- Classes join the Parish weekday Mass and prepare and read the Prayers of Intercession and lead the offertory.
- During October and May, children pray the Rosary at lunch or break time.
- Remembrance Day liturgy.
- Christmas celebrations included Nativities and a Carol Service which parents were invited to.
- End of Year Mass for Yr6 pupils.
- Advent and Lenten Penitential Liturgies are inclusive with children reflecting on the theme of reconciliation through prayer stations and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those who have received this sacrament.
- Fundraising and charitable giving – often activities organised by pupils.
- Supported the First Holy Communion programme.

Key Performance Indicators

Oaklands Catholic School Performance Data

GCSE

Nationally grading has continued as normal this summer and standards have been maintained from summer 2023. Overall GCSE results are similar to 2023. Outcomes at grade 7 and above are 21.7% compared with 21.6% in 2023, and outcomes at grade 4 and above are 67.4% compared with 67.8% in 2023.

For the Oaklands cohort the prior attainment of the year group was lower than previous years, however outcomes still remain high and above national averages, a number of subjects performed particularly well including English and RE.

This cohort had their early years in secondary education significantly disrupted by COVID.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

A level

The results in 2024 showed an encouraging increase at the very top end of grades with 20.62% achieving A*-A compared to 17.31% in 2023. This is positive and accords with the strategic aim in the Sixth Form Development Plan for 2023-2024. This will be a continued focus with aim of having top grade boundaries at KS5 above the national average. The grades at A*-B in 2024 were a little down (4.42%) on 2023 but this might be seen as offset by the higher top-grade boundary. Also, the A*-C in 2024 were broadly up on 2023 (68.36% in 2024 and 70.06% in 2023) and A*-D (85.88% in 2024 compared to 85.37% in 2023). However, there was a slight decrease (2%) in the overall A*-E in 2024 at 97.1%. The grades this year at the top end were particularly pleasing in that they facilitated a record number of our students (13) to successfully secure places on highly competitive medical courses and to have our first Oxbridge success in over three years.

Measure	Oaklands %	National %
% of students attaining 4+ English	82	62
% of students attaining 5+ English	62	46
% of students attaining 4+ Maths	77	60
% of students attaining 5+ Maths	57	42

Grades	Oaklands %	National %
A* to A	22	28
A* to B	44	54
A* to C	71	76
A* to D	87	90
A* to E	96	97

At the time of writing national progress figures are not available.

Ofsted Oaklands

Oaklands Catholic School was last inspected on 5th and 6th July 2022. The Ofsted inspectors concluded that Oaklands continues to be a good school. In the report they said: "Oaklands is a welcoming and diverse community, united by strong Catholic values. Pupils speak confidently about spiritual and moral issues, regardless of whether they have a personal religious faith. School staff provide a high quality of care which makes the young people feel safe and prosper. Sixth formers describe their school as a big family. Leaders encourage everyone to take part in the very wide range of activities on offer. As the school's mission statement says, 'no-one gets left behind'." The inspection team spent two days evaluating the school against their criteria. They observed learning, listened to students, held meetings and took evidence from school staff and Local Governors, noted the views of parents, observed the school as we went about our normal business. A two-day inspection is a 'snapshot' although the inspection team attempt to judge the school over time.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

The Local Governors are very pleased with the outcome considering the impact that COVID has had on all schools over the last three years. Ofsted is just one lens through which to view a school. The inspectors acknowledged that leaders set high standards of behaviour and that safeguarding is effective. They also recognised that teachers set demanding standards for Sixth Form students. Ofsted have left us with two targets. The first relates to reading for understanding and the second concerns cognitive overload, which in essence referees to too much information being given to students. The public examination data for the summer of 2022, was not available to the team at the time of inspection, however these targets need to be viewed in the round with our examination outcomes. For example, 91% of students achieved the required grade in GCSE English and 83% in Maths. The provisional progress data suggests that student performance was better than expected. Exam outcomes are important for students and parents. The inspection process did not expose any new issues for the school or the local governing body. In a school the size and complexity of Oaklands there is always more to do, and we are getting on with it responding to the agenda set by Ofsted. In the meantime, there is a great sense of pride in our school where the results speak for themselves, and Ofsted recognised that we live our mission which includes the principle "no one gets left behind".

Section 48 Validation

Oaklands Catholic School underwent a Section 48 Validation in March 2019. The school was judged to be outstanding across all four areas, with an overall Outstanding judgement:

- The school as a Catholic Community
- Curriculum Religious Education
- Spiritual and Moral Development
- Leadership and Management

The Validation report stated that the headteacher and his senior team consistently model a professional and authentic approach to Catholic education, which inspires the school community to share a strong sense of purpose, vision and mission. Local Governors' commitment to the Catholic life of the school is exemplary. Their support and challenge has enabled the school to thrive and grow, united by the cross.

The Validators agreed with the school's self-review and areas for development, which were:

- Provide varied opportunities for parents to attend worship in school and engage with curriculum events that give them a clear understanding of what is taught in RE.
- The RE department should continue to develop and monitor the effectiveness of strategies to improve progress in KS3 and 4.

Oaklands is currently in the window for a Section 48 validation.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)
Corpus Christi Performance Data

Key stage 2 Performance

Yr6 KEY STAGE OUTCOMES 2023/24				
Groups	School		National – where available	Difference between school and national
	2023	2024		2023
Reading EXP+	83%	80%	74%	6%
Reading GDS	26%	29%	28%	1%
Writing EXP+	70%	78%	72%	6%
Writing GDS	11%	4%	13%	-9%
Maths EXP+	67%	71%	73%	-2%
Maths GDS	12%	11%	24%	-13%
RWM EXP+	63%	60%	61%	-1%

Reading, writing and maths outcomes were at least in line with national averages with no obvious groups achieving less well than predicted.

Ofsted Corpus Christi

- Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School was last inspected in May 2024. with many strengths of the school identified, including exemplary behaviour and attitudes demonstrated by pupils.
- The quality of education was judged as good with all pupils, including those with additional needs and who are disadvantaged, benefitting from the school's provision.
- Leadership was seen as robust and the inspectors recognised the effectiveness of approaches which have led to improvements and the high quality provision on offer.
- The identified areas for improvement have informed action planning.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Section 48

Corpus Christi underwent a section 48 validation in May 2022. The validation recognised Corpus Christi as a good school where the mission statement and Christian ethos, have a very positive impact. The validation team said:

- The school community values and celebrates all as God's children
- The strong leadership of the headteacher and her RE leader enhances the school's Christian vision and strong ethos.
- The regular support of the parish priest is promising to become a great benefit to the school.
- Corpus Christi is a school where strengths are recognised and celebrated by all stakeholders and any areas for development that are identified are quickly addressed.
- Local Governors are very supportive, take an active interest in the Catholic life of the school and play a key role in acting as critical friends.
- The Catholic ethos is evidenced and staff make good use of the physical environment and the displays celebrate the school's Catholic identity.
- The quality of teaching is good as are the standards in RE.
- Good relationships are evident between staff and children in and beyond the classroom and enhance the learning.
- Staff and children act as witnesses to their faith through their support of one another and their support for local, national and international charities.
- Parents are supportive of the school. A large majority of parents were very positive about all aspects of school life especially the school's sense of welcome and the strength of the relationships.
- Moral development is outstanding. Pupils are very good ambassadors for the school and speak about their school with pride.
- Their good behaviour and attitudes are underpinned by their knowledge and living out of the school's mission statement: children said, 'We try and do what Jesus does, He loves and forgives us' and "The teachers try to get the younger children fascinated by RE"

Pupil recruitment

The Trust Schools remain popular in the local areas they serve and continue to have more applications than places. At Oaklands, for application into Year 7 starting September 2023 year 466 parents expressed a preference against 232 places. Sixth form recruitment whilst remaining challenging had a noticeable increase in the numbers for the 2021 intake.

Corpus Christi remains a popular choice of school for parents. Although there are spaces in Yr1 and EY all other year groups are full. Portsmouth City Council intelligence predicts a falling birth rate over the next four years.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

The table below depicts the trend of student numbers over the past five years:

	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
R - Yr 6	300	301	301	303	315
Yr7-11 NOR	1140	1105	1159	1151	1151
Sixth Form NOR	231	232	248	223	210

Staff costs

Total staffing costs represent 74% (2023: 74%) of expenditure. The combined pressures of increased salary costs and higher number of children with SEND needs, some complex, continue to have a significant impact on the budget. Measures to reduce the number of teaching staff, support staff and other expenditure efficiencies continued to be closely monitored as part of a review of the financial stability plan and through strategic financial planning over the next three years.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education via the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to the purposes of education. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds (non-fixed assets) in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the SORP, such grants are shown in the statement of financial activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Other income is received from parental donations, bank interest and the hire of facilities at each Academy School within the Trust.

During the period ended 31 August 2024 total income was £12,472,127 (2023: £11,485,005), and was mainly made up of recurrent grant funding from the ESFA. Total expenditure in the year was £12,620,980 (2023: £11,281,380). The deficit for the year was £148,853 (2023: a surplus of £203,625). These figures are stated excluding restricted fixed asset fund and pension reserve.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Financial Review (continued)

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £204,993 (2023: £216,719) and the movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Trust.

Within the Trust individual academy schools are entitled to bid for funding from the ESFA via the Capital Improvement Fund. During the 2023/24 financial year Oaklands resubmitted a bid for the Sports Hall refurbishment and a new bid relating to structural repairs and compliance issues in the White House main administration and teaching building. Both bids were unsuccessful despite improvements made to the resubmitted bid based on the narrowly missed criteria in the previous submission. Corpus Christi remains on the School's Rebuilding Programme and is awaiting announcement of when planning and design work will start.

In accordance with the funding agreements made between the Department for Education, the Trust and the individual Academy Schools, the financial practices and procedures must comply with the Academy Trust Handbook as well as company law and the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice. The Trust has produced its own ESCAT Manual of Financial Practice and Procedures based on this guidance and every member of Trust staff with any financial responsibility is expected to read and adhere to its procedures. The trustees approve a financial timetable to ensure that a realistic and robust annual budget is set and approved and that a process of budget revision is carried out at regular intervals throughout the financial year. The Chief Financial Officer ensures monthly monitoring of budgets against actuals takes place and significant variances are reported to trustees, the Local Governing Bodies and appropriate sub-committees that meet regularly throughout the year. 3-year budget plans are produced to consider the key priorities in each academy school development plan and the level of surplus to carry forward on an annual basis is discussed and approved by trustees to ensure it supports the strategic vision. Cash flow analysis is carried out on a monthly basis and monthly cash surpluses are invested to ensure the best return. During the year ended 31 August 2024 the level of interest received from monies on notice and instant access deposit accounts fell short of the level paid for bank charges but the level of return has increased slightly due to small increases in interest rates on deposits. A scheme of delegated authority ensures decisions are taken at the appropriate level and that expenditure on larger projects is subject to discussion in the appropriate forum.

The Trust's non-teaching staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. As described in note 28 of the Financial Accounts the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of academy conversion and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the scheme since conversion and during the year ended 31 August 2024. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date. The Trust's share of the Scheme's assets is currently assessed to be less than its liabilities in the Scheme, and consequently the balance sheet shows a net liability of £6,000 (2023: £171,000).

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Reserves Policy

The Trust revised its Reserves Policy in February 2024 and established the policy to protect its activities by providing financial buffers against an unpredictable financial environment across schools and to make sufficient provision for future cash flow requirements. In addition, the policy supports the common good across all schools, this being a key principle of Catholic Social Teaching.

The Trust believes in the principle of subsidiarity which means decisions being taken at a school level in accordance with the schemes of delegation, the policy supports this. In addition, we believe in the principle of solidarity which means we are all responsible for each other, with a willingness to see others as self. This means where required the Trust will use funds from its schools to support individual schools in times of hardship. This ensures our schools continue to look outwards and work in partnership with all other schools within the ESCAT Catholic family for the benefit of all our children.

The Trust's aim is to use the allocated funding each year for the full benefit of our current students. However, we also consider it necessary to carry forward some reserves to:

- Provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants;
- To invest in future years' priorities for the children of our schools, for example capital projects; and have plans in place to maintain reserves over the next three years for this purpose;
- To have a contingency reserve to cover expenditure required for unforeseen circumstances such as urgent maintenance and unfunded increases in salary costs.

The level of free reserves (total funds less fixed asset and other restricted funds) held at 31 August 2024 was £302,264 (2023: £355,683) which the Board of Trustees consider is reasonable to meet the above objectives, noting the aim to expend some of our reserves on capital projects over the next 12 to 24 months.

Investment Policy

The Trust operates several bank accounts which are maintained to ensure the effective financial management of its liquid assets. They mainly comprise of current accounts which are low interest-bearing accounts and incur bank charges on various transactions. Each Academy School may hold surplus monies in a 30-day notice interest bearing account subject to the cash flow requirements of each academy school.

It is the policy of the trustees to ensure that all surplus cash balances when available are invested to gain additional interest and that all interest gained will be used for the benefit of the students in the provision of education.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees confirm that the major risks to which the Trust is exposed have been reviewed, in particular relating to ethos, safety, including any global pandemic, management of resources, delivery of the planned curriculum, IT security and leadership and management of the Trust. Trustees also recognise their responsibilities to ensure the trusts estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. Both schools in the trust have a long-term maintenance plan and Devolved Formula Capital funding and school budget allocations are used to maintain the estate with regards to minor works. Major works are covered by bidding on the Capital Improvement Fund and in the case of Corpus Christi the Schools Rebuilding Programme. Financial risks such as reduction of income due to falling numbers on roll, inadequate cash flow and pension deficit balances are also reviewed along with the Trust's financial procedures which seek to reduce the risk of fraud and ensure compliance with the principles of best value.

Fundraising

The Trust undertakes fundraising activities, for example through fetes, cake sales, non-uniform days and a sponsor a child scheme to pay for children to go to School in Korogocho, Kenya. The Trust raises funds in order to support its own operations and also to make donations to local, national and international charities. Examples of fundraising in the period ending 31st August 2024 included:

• Macmillan Cancer	£225
• Save the Children	£103
• St Johns	£3,660
• CAFOD	£1,378
• British Heart Foundation	£2,342
• Rowans Hospice	£1,668
• Cancer Research	£108
• World Book Day	£73
• Sacred Heart Church	£166
• Buckland Soup Kitchen	£210
• Portsmouth City of Sanctuary	£282
• Caritas	£116

The Trust undertakes all such activities itself, with help of its Staff, Students and their families. We confirm that when fundraising:

- No unsolicited approaches are made to members of the public
- No commercial participators are used
- No regularity schemes or standards are applicable
- No complaints were made to the Academy Trust during the year

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Plans for Future Periods

The continuing changing landscape of funding for education will mean challenging financial implications for the Trust. The Trustees await the outcome of the new government's budget and spending review as well as the outcome of Union agreement to the proposed salary increases and any further support from the government with regard to the increased salary costs and rises in the cost of other elements of expenditure. In tandem to any announcement by the government the trustees remain committed to regularly reviewing its Financial Stability Plan which includes the following ongoing priorities:

- Maintain optimum teaching staffing costs in all Key Stages in tandem with efficiencies in curriculum delivery and options offered at KS4 and KS5.
- Maintain the optimum number of support staff and external staff whilst retaining the capacity to fulfil legislative driven requirements.
- Other non-staff cost reductions and increased income generation.
- To secure capital funding for the refurbishment of buildings, giving priority to health and safety, other compliance issues and condition of the Trust's school buildings.
- Continue to build on the increase in pupil numbers, as part of the published admission number (PAN) in the Main schools and Sixth Form provision to offset real term funding cuts.
- Review of IT infrastructure to maximize efficient utilization against the changing needs of the curriculum.
- A further review of the Financial Stability Plan will be undertaken in 2024/25.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy Trust does not hold any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 4 December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mr M D Evans
Chair of Trustees

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr M D Evans, Chair of Trustees	4	5
Mr W Layton	5	5
Mgr. J Garratt	1	5
Mrs N E Burnett	5	5
Mrs G Rennicks	5	5
Mrs L Holford	3	5
Mr N Parker	5	5

The coverage of the board's work continued to be wide ranging throughout the year and included the establishment of a separate Audit and Risk Committee and separate Finance Committee. The board of trustees continued to focus on educational standards and the catholic ethos of the trust. The opportunity has been taken to review the trust's strategy document and scheme of delegation and other areas of governance. The Board of Trustees continues to focus efforts on recruiting other Trustees so that the work of the board can be enhanced through the creation of Educational Standards and Catholic Ethos sub committees.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust maintains an up-to-date register of business and pecuniary interests of all trustees and local governors of our academy schools. These registers are displayed on the trust or academy school websites as appropriate. The registers are reviewed at least annually or more regularly if there are any significant changes. The Business and Pecuniary interests of Members are provided by the Diocese. Each meeting of trustees or local governors has a standing agenda item relating to Business and Pecuniary interest where the trustees or local governors are expected to declare any conflict of interests for agenda items where such a conflict exists. The Company Secretary holds a copy of the individual declarations as a check and control that any conflicts of interest are declared and considered at meetings as appropriate.

Governance Reviews

Governance is one of the elements that is checked by the internal verifier as part of their programme of work undertaken over the course of the year and each year. The board of trustees and local governors from both schools undertake the Catholic Education Service Governor Skills Audit to ensure the right level of skills are held to undertake governance of the schools and trust. The results of these audits help to direct future recruitment to fill gaps in knowledge and experience where required.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to maintain robust financial oversight of the Academy Trust, its financial affairs, stewardship of assets, and use of resources efficiently to maximise outcomes for pupils. Particular issues dealt with during the year were the review of financial outturn reports, budget reviews and finance related risks. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr W Layton	2	2
Mrs L Holford	2	2
Mr N Parker	2	2
Mr M Evans	1	2

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, the Trust's financial systems and operational controls and extends to the financial controls and risks of each Academy. Particular issues dealt with during the year were the review of actions related to Internal Verification and external audit, risk management and health and safety. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr W Layton	4	4
Mrs L Holford	4	4
Mr N Parker	3	4
Mr M D Evans	4	4

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Review of Value for Money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Flexible use of support staff to provide the most cost effective, efficient and professional support to the teaching and learning;
- Comparing with other similar schools with the use of financial benchmarking data based on ESFA annual returns data;
- The investment of cash surpluses in interest bearing accounts to maximise income used to support teaching and learning;
- Continually seeking and successfully securing capital funding, bids and grants to support capital works thus releasing revenue income for use to support the changes in curriculum and counter increases in staff costs;
- Reviewing the provision of service level agreements and contracts including those currently secured through the local authorities with a view to reducing costs whilst ensuring consistent delivery of support services to the Academy;
- Reducing the use of external providers for training and mentoring support complemented with greater use of webinars to reduce training costs;
- Effective use of curriculum and pastoral intervention to ensure students receive the best support in the most cost-effective manner;
- Minimising over supply of teaching staff against periods required to deliver the curriculum;
- Provision of ICT equipment to meet the change in demand as a result of moving away from exams that demand extensive authoring of coursework and controlled assessment; and
- Reducing the use of external education and curriculum providers to deliver bespoke packages at Key Stage 4.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- Regular reviews by the trustees through reports from the local governing bodies and the appropriate sub-committees which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal verification service from Moore (South), Chartered Accountants.

The internal verifier's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing in the following areas:

- Budgets
- Management Reporting
- Governance
- Risk Management
- Fixed Assets
- Capital Projects
- ATH Musts Compliance
- Income
- Procurement
- Payroll & HR

Three times a year the internal verifier reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The schedule of work has been completed as planned and all recommendations made have been reviewed and actions have been put in place to fulfil the recommendations made.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Review of Effectiveness

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

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

The Internal Verifier concluded in their report that 'Our reviews of the financial controls and procedures have concluded that there are certain deficiencies in the Trust's internal controls and improvements can be made in relation to these'. 'These (recommendations) are recommended to enhance and improve the controls already in place and ensure that there is adequate documentation of procedures within the financial manual'.

'We are satisfied that the internal scrutiny programme has covered a sufficient range of financial and non-financial controls to give the Trust board independent assurance that risk management is appropriate'.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of 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 members of the Board of Trustees on 4 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr M D Evans
Chair of Trustees



Mr M Quinn
Accounting Officer

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

Matthew Quinn

Mr M Quinn
Accounting Officer
4 December 2024

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr M D Evans
Chair of Trustees

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

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 incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly 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.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

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. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report), and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' 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.

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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Responsibilities of the Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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 Independent 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.

James Flood

J Flood FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date 12 Dec 2024

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2021 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2023) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Conclusion

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

James Flood

J Flood FCA
Reporting Accountant
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Chartered Accountants
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date 12 Dec 2024

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	2	-	444,676	-	36,401	481,077	3,145,546
Other trading activities	4	44,017	-	-	-	44,017	41,023
Investments	5	6,942	-	-	-	6,942	2,447
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	11,976,492	-	-	11,976,492	11,002,339
Total		50,959	12,421,168	-	36,401	12,508,528	14,191,355
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Grants	7	-	-	-	1,861,786	1,861,786	29,397
Academy trust educational operations	8	-	12,620,980	57,000	78,304	12,756,284	11,554,108
Total		-	12,620,980	57,000	1,940,090	14,618,070	11,583,505
Net income / (expenditure)		50,959	(199,812)	(57,000)	(1,903,689)	(2,109,542)	2,607,850
Transfers between funds	18	(104,378)	4,224	-	100,154	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	-	222,000	-	222,000	545,000
Net movement in funds		(53,419)	(195,588)	165,000	(1,803,535)	(1,887,542)	3,152,850
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		355,683	195,588	(171,000)	2,682,768	3,063,039	(89,811)
Total funds carried forward		302,264	-	(6,000)	879,233	1,175,497	3,063,039

The notes on pages 37 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Company Number 07721932

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		204,993		216,719
Current assets					
Stock	14	19,968		11,920	
Debtors	15	1,238,338		2,736,862	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>673,324</u>		<u>1,194,613</u>	
		1,931,630		3,943,395	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(900,926)</u>		<u>(844,775)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,030,704</u>		<u>3,098,620</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,235,697		3,315,339
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17		<u>(54,200)</u>		<u>(81,300)</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			1,181,497		3,234,039
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28		(6,000)		(171,000)
Total net assets			<u>1,175,497</u>		<u>3,063,039</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	18	879,233		2,682,768	
Restricted income fund	18	-		195,588	
Pension reserve	18	<u>(6,000)</u>		<u>(171,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			873,233		2,707,356
Unrestricted income funds	18		302,264		355,683
Total funds			<u>1,175,497</u>		<u>3,063,039</u>

The financial statements on pages 34 to 60 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr M D Evans
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 37 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22	(235,324)	473,576
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(27,100)	(27,101)
Cash flows from investing activities	24	(258,865)	116,016
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(521,289)</u>	<u>562,491</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		1,194,613	632,122
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	25	<u>673,324</u>	<u>1,194,613</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

- 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.

- Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Income (continued)

- Other Income

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

- Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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 Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

- Grant expenditure

These are costs incurred on improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,500 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.

The Academy Trust occupies academy land and buildings under supplementary agreements with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. In accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction, the Academy Trust has considered whether it should recognise academy land and buildings as a fixed asset on its balance sheet. The Academy Trust has determined that the conditions required to conclude that it has control over the premises which it occupies under supplementary agreements with the Diocese are not met and consequently the Academy Trust has not recognised the value of land and buildings occupied under supplementary agreements as a fixed asset on its balance sheet. Costs incurred which enhance or permanently add to the school land or buildings owned by the Diocese are not capitalised and all such costs are expensed.

The supplementary agreements permit the Academy Trust to occupy the premises on a rolling basis, with a two-year notice period. In accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction, the Academy Trust's occupation of the premises has been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a notional donation from the Diocese (since it pays no actual rent), and a matching notional rental expense, of £434,084 (2023: £429,209).

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than 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:

Furniture and Equipment	33% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 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 Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial liabilities

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

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

Pensions Benefits

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

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

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

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 28.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no critical areas of judgement.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Capital grants	-	36,401	36,401	2,706,350
Other donations	-	444,676	444,676	439,196
	-	481,077	481,077	3,145,546
<i>Total 2023</i>	-	3,145,546	3,145,546	

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,280,825	8,280,825	7,747,580
16-19 core education funding	-	1,371,940	1,371,940	1,199,581
Pupil Premium	-	292,336	292,336	267,695
UIFSM	-	42,783	42,783	36,404
Rates reclaim	-	92,211	92,211	43,418
PE and sports grant	-	18,620	18,620	18,630
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	283,680	283,680	118,200
Teachers' pay grant	-	131,918	131,918	900
Teachers' pension grant	-	142,650	142,650	49,191
Other DfE grants	-	73,061	73,061	390,007
ITT Bursaries Grants	-	3,432	3,432	917
	-	10,733,456	10,733,456	9,872,523
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	262,659	262,659	136,185
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Trip income	-	275,426	275,426	352,897
Catering income	-	420,802	420,802	367,421
Other income	-	284,149	284,149	273,313
	-	980,377	980,377	993,631
	-	11,976,492	11,976,492	11,002,339
<i>Total 2023</i>	-	11,002,339	11,002,339	

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Hire of facilities	44,017	-	44,017	41,023
<i>Total 2023</i>	41,023	-	41,023	

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Short term deposits	6,942	-	6,942	2,447
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>2,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,447</u>	

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Grants	-	1,861,786	-	1,861,786	29,397
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	7,583,701	-	797,295	8,380,996	7,762,692
Allocated support costs	1,806,181	1,443,045	1,126,062	4,375,288	3,791,416
	<u>9,389,882</u>	<u>3,304,831</u>	<u>1,923,357</u>	<u>14,618,070</u>	<u>11,583,505</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>8,504,749</u>	<u>1,240,213</u>	<u>1,838,543</u>	<u>11,583,505</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Operating lease rentals	19,140	18,374
Depreciation	78,304	99,728
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	9,985	9,770
Other services	7,965	5,980

7 Analysis of grant expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust	-	1,861,786	1,861,786	29,397
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,397</u>	<u>29,397</u>	

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

8 Charitable activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	8,380,996	7,762,692
Support costs – educational operations	4,375,288	3,791,416
	<u>12,756,284</u>	<u>11,554,108</u>

Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2023/24	2022/23
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	1,806,181	1,806,181	1,561,357
Depreciation	78,304	78,304	99,728
Technology costs	205,417	205,417	94,797
Premises costs	1,443,045	1,443,045	1,210,816
Other support costs	821,888	821,888	810,200
Governance costs	20,453	20,453	14,518
Total support costs	<u>4,375,288</u>	<u>4,375,288</u>	<u>3,791,416</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>		<u>3,791,416</u>	<u>3,791,416</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

9 Staff

a) Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,943,304	6,308,648
Social security costs	705,300	625,477
Pension costs	1,619,372	1,493,375
	<u>9,267,976</u>	<u>8,427,500</u>
Agency staff costs	121,143	64,749
Staff restructuring costs	763	12,500
	<u>9,389,882</u>	<u>8,504,749</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	-	12,500
Other restructuring costs	763	-
	<u>763</u>	<u>12,500</u>

b) Staff numbers

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
Teachers	97	93
Administration and support	108	105
Management	8	8
	<u>213</u>	<u>206</u>

c) Higher paid staff

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	3
£70,001 - £80,000	5	3
£80,001 - £90,000	2	1
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £925,526 (2023: £845,478).

10 Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

During the period ended 31 August 2024, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023: none).

During the period ended 31 August 2024, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2023: none).

11 Trustees’ and officers’ insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £25m on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2024 was £139 (2023: £120). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Central services

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

- Technology costs
- Governance costs
- Other costs as arising

The Academy Trust charges for these services based on actual costs incurred. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	33,450	-
Oaklands Catholic School	33,904	-
	<u>67,354</u>	<u>-</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 September 2023	628,122	616,902	1,245,024
Acquisitions	23,435	43,143	66,578
At 31 August 2024	<u>651,557</u>	<u>660,045</u>	<u>1,311,602</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	566,771	461,534	1,028,305
Charged in year	28,565	49,739	78,304
At 31 August 2024	<u>595,336</u>	<u>511,273</u>	<u>1,106,609</u>
Net book values			
At 31 August 2023	61,351	155,368	216,719
At 31 August 2024	<u>56,221</u>	<u>148,772</u>	<u>204,993</u>

14 Stock

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Catering stocks	7,983	9,432
Other stocks	11,985	2,488
	<u>19,968</u>	<u>11,920</u>

15 Debtors

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade debtors	34,076	24,782
VAT recoverable	131,671	60,408
Prepayments and accrued income	1,072,591	2,651,672
	<u>1,238,338</u>	<u>2,736,862</u>

Prepayments and accrued income includes £815,462 (2023: £2,441,618) in respect of capital grants receivable from the ESFA.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Trade creditors	305,360	301,928
Other taxation and social security	21,386	125,476
Loans falling due within one year	27,101	27,101
Other creditors falling due within one year	48,265	189,359
Accruals and deferred income	498,814	200,911
	<u>900,926</u>	<u>844,775</u>

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	111,568	144,370
Released from previous years	(111,568)	(144,370)
Resources deferred in the year	148,943	111,568
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>148,943</u>	<u>111,568</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for grant income and trips relating to the forthcoming financial year.

Loans falling due within one year represents an interest-free Salix energy efficiency loan from the ESFA, which is repayable in bi-annual instalments from 1 September 2019.

17 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Loans falling due in greater than one year	<u>54,200</u>	<u>81,300</u>

Loans falling due in greater than one year represents an interest-free Salix energy efficiency loan from the ESFA, which is repayable in bi-annual instalments from 1 September 2019.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	195,588	8,280,825	(8,480,637)	4,224	-	-
16-19 core education funding	-	1,371,940	(1,371,940)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	292,336	(292,336)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	42,783	(42,783)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	92,211	(92,211)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	18,620	(18,620)	-	-	-
MSAG	-	283,680	(283,680)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	131,918	(131,918)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	142,650	(142,650)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	73,061	(73,061)	-	-	-
ITT Bursaries Grants	-	3,432	(3,432)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	262,659	(262,659)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	-	1,425,053	(1,425,053)	-	-	-
	195,588	12,421,168	(12,620,980)	4,224	-	-
Pension reserve	(171,000)	-	(57,000)	-	222,000	(6,000)
	24,588	12,421,168	(12,677,980)	4,224	222,000	(6,000)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	216,719	-	(78,304)	66,578	-	204,993
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	22,123	36,401	-	(58,524)	-	-
ESFA capital grants (CIF)	2,552,327	-	(1,861,786)	65,000	-	755,541
Salix loan	(108,401)	-	-	27,100	-	(81,301)
	2,682,768	36,401	(1,940,090)	100,154	-	879,233
Total restricted funds	2,707,356	12,457,569	(14,618,070)	104,378	222,000	873,233
Total unrestricted funds	355,683	50,959	-	(104,378)	-	302,264
Total funds	3,063,039	12,508,528	(14,618,070)	-	222,000	1,175,497

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

18 Funds (continued)

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

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

General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre- and post-16 high needs funding streams.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion.

Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

18 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	46,299	86,541
Oaklands Catholic School	286,997	452,557
Central services	(31,032)	12,173
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	302,264	551,271
Restricted fixed asset fund	879,233	2,682,768
Pension reserve	(6,000)	(171,000)
Total	1,175,497	3,063,039

Central services is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	£
Central services	31,032

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return it to surplus:

The deficit will be recovered in the forthcoming financial year through additional charges made to the Academy Trust's academies in respect of the provision of central services.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excl. dep- reciation) £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Corpus Christi	1,156,779	364,628	84,220	326,459	1,932,086	1,838,037
Oaklands Catholic School	6,426,922	1,441,553	713,075	4,026,130	12,607,680	9,645,740
	7,583,701	1,806,181	797,295	4,352,589	14,539,766	11,483,777

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

18 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	78,856	7,738,543	(7,578,388)	(43,423)	-	195,588
16-19 core education funding	-	1,208,618	(1,208,618)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	267,695	(267,695)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	36,404	(36,404)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	43,418	(43,418)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	18,630	(18,630)	-	-	-
MSAG	-	118,200	(118,200)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	900	(900)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	49,191	(49,191)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	390,007	(390,007)	-	-	-
ITT Bursaries Grants	-	917	(917)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	136,185	(136,185)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	-	1,432,827	(1,432,827)	-	-	-
	78,856	11,441,535	(11,281,380)	(43,423)	-	195,588
Pension reserve	(543,000)	-	(173,000)	-	545,000	(171,000)
	(464,144)	11,441,535	(11,454,380)	(43,423)	545,000	24,588
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	194,681	-	(99,728)	121,766	-	216,719
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	2,941	104,626	-	(85,444)	-	22,123
ESFA capital grants (CIF)	-	2,601,724	(29,397)	(20,000)	-	2,552,327
Salix loan	(135,502)	-	-	27,101	-	(108,401)
	62,120	2,706,350	(129,125)	43,423	-	2,682,768
Total restricted funds	(402,024)	14,147,885	(11,583,505)	-	545,000	2,707,356
Total unrestricted funds	312,213	43,470	-	-	-	355,683
Total funds	(89,811)	14,191,355	(11,583,505)	-	545,000	3,063,039

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	204,993	204,993
Current assets	302,264	873,825	-	755,541	1,931,630
Current liabilities	-	(873,825)	-	(27,101)	(900,926)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	(54,200)	(54,200)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(6,000)	-	(6,000)
Total net assets	302,264	-	(6,000)	879,233	1,175,497

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

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	216,719	216,719
Current assets	355,683	1,013,262	-	2,574,450	3,943,395
Current liabilities	-	(817,674)	-	(27,101)	(844,775)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	(81,300)	(81,300)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(171,000)	-	(171,000)
Total net assets	355,683	195,588	(171,000)	2,682,768	3,063,039

20 Capital commitments

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	755,541	2,117,691

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

21 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	41,282	10,558
Amounts due between one and five years	102,697	1,875
Amounts due after five years	1,995	-
	<u>145,974</u>	<u>12,433</u>

22 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Net (expenditure) / income for the reporting period	(2,109,542)	2,607,850
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	78,304	99,728
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(36,401)	(2,706,350)
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust	1,861,786	29,397
Interest receivable	(6,942)	(2,447)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	47,000	148,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	10,000	25,000
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	(8,048)	1,764
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(127,632)	120,739
Increase in creditors	56,151	149,895
Net cash (used in) / provided by Operating Activities	<u>(235,324)</u>	<u>473,576</u>

23 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(27,100)	(27,101)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(27,100)</u>	<u>(27,101)</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

24 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	6,942	2,447
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(66,578)	(121,766)
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust	(1,861,786)	(29,397)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,662,557	264,732
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	<u>(258,865)</u>	<u>116,016</u>

25 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>673,324</u>	<u>1,194,613</u>

26 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023	Cash flows	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries	New finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash	1,194,613	(521,289)	-	-	-	673,324
Loans falling due within one year	(27,101)	-	-	-	-	(27,101)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(81,300)	27,100	-	-	-	(54,200)
Total	<u>1,086,212</u>	<u>(494,189)</u>	-	-	-	<u>592,023</u>

27 Member 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.

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

28 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Hampshire County Council. 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 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £3,345 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £133,784) 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 four years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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 has been implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,184,030 (2023: £1,003,745).

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

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	377,000	372,000
Employees' contributions	127,000	114,000
	<u>504,000</u>	<u>486,000</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% for employers and 5.5% to 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 an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	4.0%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7%	3.0%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.2%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7%	3.0%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<u>70.0%</u>	<u>70.0%</u>

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

	2024	2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.0	22.1
Females	<u>24.7</u>	<u>24.7</u>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.5	22.6
Females	<u>25.6</u>	<u>25.7</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(141,000)	(131,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	141,000	131,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	289,000	259,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(289,000)	(259,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	140,000	128,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(140,000)	(128,000)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Equities	3,972,000	3,718,000
Gilts	2,672,000	2,016,000
Property	506,000	378,000
Cash and other liquid assets	72,000	189,000
Total market value of assets	<u>7,222,000</u>	<u>6,301,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £554,000 (2023: £280,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Current service cost	424,000	520,000
Interest income	(337,000)	(239,000)
Interest cost	347,000	264,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>434,000</u>	<u>545,000</u>

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At 1 September	6,472,000	6,177,000
Current service cost	424,000	520,000
Interest cost	347,000	264,000
Employee contributions	127,000	114,000
Actuarial gain	(5,000)	(504,000)
Benefits paid	(137,000)	(99,000)
At 31 August	<u>7,228,000</u>	<u>6,472,000</u>

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At 1 September	6,301,000	5,634,000
Interest income	337,000	239,000
Actuarial gain	217,000	41,000
Employer contributions	377,000	372,000
Employee contributions	127,000	114,000
Benefits paid	(137,000)	(99,000)
At 31 August	<u>7,222,000</u>	<u>6,301,000</u>

29 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period:

Expenditure Related Party Transactions:

During the year, close family members of one key management personnel were employed by the Academy Trust. The total remuneration was £50,993 (2023: £47,180) and pension contributions were £12,419 (2023: £10,718).