

The De Curci Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration Number:
10646541 (England and Wales)

The De Curci Trust

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The De Curci Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

S Cook
D Good
C Lincoln
R Parnell
B Topham

Trustees

C Batstone
A Beane (resigned 30 January 2023)
K Bochen (appointed 4 September 2023)
A Cufley
A Eales (resigned 20 September 2023)
S Hamilton
D Smith
S Spivey
L Wilby (resigned 29 November 2022)

Company Secretary

D Skinner

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer & Headteacher, Springfield School	S Spivey
Executive Headteacher, Solent Infants & Junior Schools	L Wilby
Head of School, Solent Junior School	L Peterkin-Aldred
Head of School, Solent Infant School	E Curthoys
Head of School (Interim), Springfield School	L Kelly
Deputy Headteacher, Springfield School	J Wilburn
Deputy Headteacher, Springfield School	W Wharton
Assistant Head Teacher, Springfield School	V Brunning
Assistant Head Teacher, Springfield School	J Goodship
Chief Financial and Operating Officer	N Waites
Trust ICT Manager	D Failles

The De Curci Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Company Name
The De Curci Trust

Principal and Registered Office
Springfield School
Central Road
Drayton
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO6 1QY

Company Registration Number
10646541 (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
North End Branch
38 London Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO2 0LR

Solicitors
Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP
Narrow Quay House
Narrow Quay
Bristol
BS1 4QA

The De Curci 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 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates a multi-academy trust for the pupils of Solent Infant School, Solent Junior School and Springfield School in Portsmouth. Its academies had a combined pupil capacity of 1,804 and had a combined roll of 1,705 in 2022/23. The Government's Levelling Up White Paper (2022) identified the city of Portsmouth as one of 55 education investment areas (EIAs).

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 The De Curci Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The De Curci 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.

Trustees' Indemnities

The articles of association (6.3) state, 'A Trustee may benefit from any indemnity arrangement purchased at the Academy Trust's expense or any arrangement so agreed with the Secretary of State to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of Trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust: provided that any such arrangement shall not extend to: (i) any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees (or any of them) knew to be a breach of Trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees (or any of them) in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of Trust or breach of duty or not; and (ii) the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees (or any of them) in their capacity as directors of the Academy Trust. Further, this Article does not authorise a Trustee to benefit from any indemnity arrangement that would be rendered void by any provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 or any other provision of law.' 'Indemnity to others' is specified in Section 3 (Employers' Liability) of the DFE 'Risk protection arrangement 2022-23' of which each school within the Trust is a member.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 9 Trustees. The articles of association provide for three categories of Trustee: the CEO, co-opted Trustees and parent Trustees; the term of office for any Trustee is four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Trustees are appointed on the basis of the skills and experience they bring to the Trustee board, with reference to the Trustee board's annual skills audit. Recruitment follows an approved protocol, which requires safer recruitment (safeguarding) practices to be employed. Further to open advertisement, a selection and interview process is undertaken by a sub-committee of the Trustee board including Members; any proposed appointment must be ratified by the Members. It is the current practice of the Trustee board that each school (academy) within the Trust may have a Trustee act as a local governor on its local governing body. The Trustees shall each school year elect a chair and a vice-chair from among their number; a Trustee who is employed by the Trust is not eligible for election.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees are provided with an induction pack containing key documentation and an induction checklist. They meet initially with the Company Secretary and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The new Trustee is assigned a mentor from the Board. Key expectations covered as part of the induction process include the 'Seven Principles of Public Life', The Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust's Code of Conduct and safeguarding. Trustees are asked to familiarise themselves with guidance published by the Charity Commission regarding the key duties of Trustees and what Trustees need to do to carry out these duties competently.

The induction process will then continue with meetings with the CEO, other members of the Executive team as appropriate, and visits to some of the Trust's schools. Trustees are encouraged to attend training and networking events as fitting to their areas of expertise and development, and are welcome to all committee meetings, including those of Local Governors, as observers to gain a deeper understanding of the organisation.

A record is kept of Trustees' training. Information from the Trustee annual skills audit and other evaluations of board working are used to commission appropriate training. The Trust is part of the Confederation of School Trusts which provides support, resources, networking and professional development; training is also commissioned through service level agreements and other providers, including Hampshire Governor Services. It is an expectation that all Trustees review Keeping Children Safe in Education each year in addition to engaging with ongoing safeguarding training appropriate to their role. All new Trustees are required to undertake safeguarding training upon appointment.

The De Curci Trust

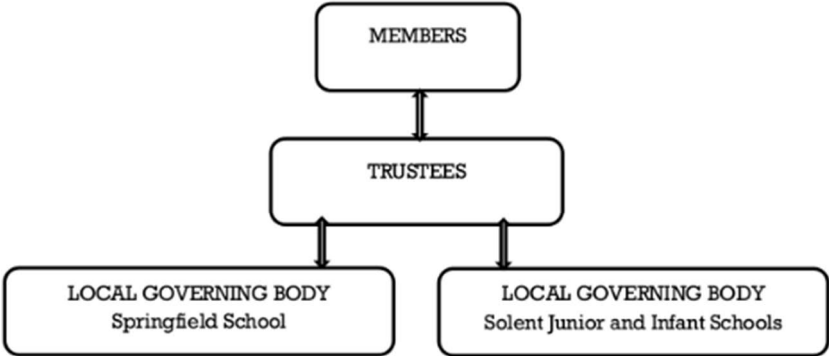
Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure

An overview of the Trust's organisational structure is shown in the diagram below. The Trust's scheme of delegation (governance), scheme of governance and scheme of financial delegation set out the framework under which the Trust is governed, and in particular:

- how the individuals which are involved in the governance of the academy Trust work together effectively;
- the relationship between the Trustees, the local governing bodies (LGBs) and the senior leadership team;
- and how the Trustees ensure compliance with the various legal and regulatory requirements placed on them.

The De Curci Trust – Overview of Governance



LOCAL GOVERNING BODY- Academy Committees		
Resources Committee	Curriculum and Standards Committee	Behaviour and Safety Committee
School budget / budget monitoring Site review / development Health and safety compliance (site) Personnel (local recruitment, staff professional development, appraisal, pay progression in line with policy)	Progress of pupils Attainment of pupils Curriculum offer / development Raising achievement plans Interventions Outcome data Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Safeguarding / child protection Attendance of pupils / persistent absence Alternative provision Pupil attitudes to learning Pupil behaviour SEN/D provision Welfare provision (including links with external agencies) Exclusion Educational visits & trips
1 / term	4 / year	1 / term

The scheme of delegation (governance) is reviewed by the Trustees annually with due regard to any new legislation or guidance. This scheme may be altered by a majority resolution of the Trustees (or by the Members of the Academy Trust in a general meeting). Similarly, terms of reference for Trustee and Local Governor committees are reviewed on an annual basis by the board of Trustees.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure (continued)

The Trustees are chiefly accountable to:

- the beneficiaries of the Academy Trust (pupils at the academies and their parents) and to the local community for the quality of education and pastoral care at the academies, for matters of health and safety, and for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the pupils;
- the DfE, the ESFA and the Secretary of State under the terms of the Funding Agreement;
- the Secretary of State for operating the Academy Trust for the public benefit, for the prudent management of the Academy Trust and its financial efficiency, and for compliance with legislation including charities legislation;
- the employees of the Academy Trust for their working environment, and for compliance with the contract of employment and employment law requirements and matters of health and safety;
- and other regulatory authorities for compliance with regulated responsibilities to which the Academy Trust and the academies are subject.

The local governing boards fulfil a strategic role and adopt a school improvement plan. They scrutinise and monitor the respective school's performance and, on advice, make decisions about the direction of their individual school(s), its capital expenditure (within the remit of the Trust's scheme of financial delegation) and appointment of staff. They recommend an annual budget which is submitted to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for formal review, amendment (if required) and ratification by the board of Trustees.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration of the CEO is set by the board of Trustees. The CEO, in conjunction with the Trust's Human Resources Committee, determines pay and remuneration for the Executive team (in accordance with the scheme of delegation).

All pay and remuneration is set with reference to the Trust's Pay Policy, DfE school teachers pay and conditions (teaching staff) and Local Government Association/National Joint Council awards (support staff); it is subject to benchmarking with similar schools/trusts and Portsmouth City Council's Pay Bands. Pay progression is determined via the appraisal process and, for the Executive team, must be ratified by the Trust or the local governing board's pay committee, as appropriate.

There is no pay and remuneration in place for Trustees, other than the opportunity to claim appropriate expenses.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£8k
Total pay bill	£8.0m
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.1%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The CEO and Executive Headteacher participate in the 'Portsmouth Education Partnership', which is a local school improvement and professional development network. Professional networking with other Headteachers and CEOs in the region and further afield is encouraged.

In addition, all schools within the Trust are represented at 'cluster' meetings of the feeder schools (to Springfield School) in the locality. Schools within the Trust also participate in the 'Challenge Partners' school improvement network.

The CEO is a member of Portsmouth's PSCP (Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership). The Executive Headteacher co-chairs the Portsmouth Primary Headteachers' Committee and conference.

The CFOO is a Fellow, and Member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL), a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA), a CFO Mentor, and Vice Chair of the Portsmouth City Council Schools' Forum, in addition to being Co-Chair of Governors at Admiral Lord Nelson School, Portsmouth.

There is one charity set up to support academies within the Trust. The 'Friends of the Solent Schools' is unincorporated and registered with the Charity Commission; it operates separately from The De Curci Trust, but raises funds and donates money to the respective schools.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The Trust's articles of association state that the Academy Trust's objects ("the Objects") are to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("the mainstream Academies") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the 16 to 19 Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academies").

The De Curci Trust's 'founding vision' (April 2017):

- We recognise that the national and local educational landscape has changed; the academies programme offers schools freedom and autonomy to develop independently.
- We see this as an opportunity; as successful schools we are committed to leading school improvement within our own organisations and across the wider system.
- We share a vision of promoting high aspirations and achieving excellent outcomes for all children; our schools are inclusive and exist to serve the children who live in the locality.
- We believe that the school learning environment should deliver a vibrant, creative and relevant education for all pupils; fostering a love of learning is central to what we do.
- We are committed to developing high quality staff and building leadership capacity across our schools; continuous professional development is an entitlement for all staff.
- We recognise that schools are different and have unique identities; our approach is to allow schools to determine their own routes to excellence within the context of their own community.

We aspire to develop expertise across all phases of education that can be shared within and beyond our Trust in order to secure school improvement for all.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The De Curci Trust's overarching strategic priority is 'achieving excellent outcomes for all children' in its family of schools. Our vision is one of inclusivity; our schools exist to serve the children who live in each school's locality.

The following strategies have been (and will continue to be) employed to secure the trust's aims:

- A relentless focus on the development of high-quality learning and teaching across all phases. Achieved through support and challenge provided by joint working across the Trust, peer networks and commissioned support. We aim for every teacher to be as good as they can be in what they teach (curriculum) and how they teach (pedagogy); and to deliver a vibrant, creative and relevant education for all pupils.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- Collaborative working and staff professional development within and across schools. Appraisal processes ask staff to contribute to the wider trust network. Leaders deploy key staff to work strategically across the trust to promote improvement and support key interventions. Links with a number of networks including the Portsmouth Education Partnership, the University of Portsmouth and Challenge Partners have been established to facilitate partnership working, joint INSET and relevant research opportunities.
- Building capacity through the well formulated recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. An enhanced 'employee value proposition' and marketing strategy will be embedded and promoted to attract key staff, as appropriate. Links with Portsmouth City Council (and other local networks) to promote teacher recruitment/retention and professional development in the locality. Trustees, Governors and staff work together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of employees. The Trust has developed its own staff survey which is conducted biannually.
- Promoting and supporting the recruitment and development of teachers through working with university and SCITT providers; providing placements, training and mentor support to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees and Early Career Teachers (ECT). Support for and access to National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) for school teachers and leaders.
- Effective and efficient deployment of support staff across the trust to secure core functions e.g. estates, finance and IT, including cybersecurity. A Trust IT Operations Manager has been appointed to lead the development of IT and related data systems. A new Digital Strategy for the Trust is under development with the (Trust) commissioned support of the PEP's Head of Digital Learning, Education and Innovation.
- Promotion of the culture of a 'learning organisation', while securing compliance and consistent approaches within a sustainable organisational structure; supported by continuous self-evaluation and appropriate training. The Trust has invested in compliance monitoring software and 'Headteacher Report' reporting software to align and make more efficient these processes across the Trust's schools. The Trust has developed its own Safeguarding Report system.
- Pursuance of opportunities to bid for/employ resources to improve the learning facilities/opportunities available for pupils, to include the ESFA's 'Condition Improvement Fund' and catch up funding. The Trust submitted a bid to the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) for Springfield School, and was notified in December 2022 that the school was on the SRP priority list. Pre-feasibility surveys commenced in the summer of 2023.
- Ongoing review of the effectiveness of governance arrangements in the context of the changing educational and political landscapes (including the publication of the Government's White Paper in March 2022). Trustees, the CEO and the Chairs of the local governing boards came together during the academic year to review communication and governance arrangements in the Trust.
- The Trust continuously reviews the efficacy of its structure, in terms of both governance and personnel, and in so doing continually evaluates its capacity and options for potential growth and development.
- Recruitment of new Trustees as appropriate and on-going development of Trustees' and local governors' knowledge, skills and communications.
- Prudent management of the Trust's funds to prioritise the schools' core function of high-quality teaching and learning in a safe and stimulating environment.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Links with Portsmouth City Council, area schools and the RSC to evaluate possible growth/development opportunities with concurrent investments in campus facilities. Growth with other partners and/or in terms of extending current provision remains an aspiration for the trust.

Public Benefit

In setting the trust's objectives and planning the Trust's activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust recognises the requirement that its purpose must be for the 'public benefit'; this is stipulated in the articles of Association (4), 'to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom ... by ... managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ... for children of compulsory school age ...'.

The activities undertaken to further the Trust's purpose for delivery of Public Benefit have been particularly strong this year; the Trust has gone beyond its normal business and educational operations due to the wider community and system needs in the context of the national cost of living pressures. This year public benefit activities have included:

- Providing help and support to families in need by providing free school meals (including breakfast), including administering the distribution of food vouchers for school holiday periods. Supporting food collection/distribution activities and school uniform distribution schemes. Through contacts and communications, the Trust has signposted families to support services and networks.
- Coordinating and funding a summer school/club programme for the 2022/23 academic year to support the transition of pupils to secondary school and develop their social, character and leadership skills. Programme targeted at vulnerable families, including those in receipt of free school meals.
- Implementation of school-led tutoring as part of the National Tutoring Programme.
- Supporting the provision of Employee Assistance packages to support the wellbeing of staff and their families.
- Supporting the Portsmouth Education Partnership with the development of Portsmouth's strategy in response to its recognition as a Priority Education Investment Area.
- Engaging with peer review/audit work with other school trusts.

The Trustees of The De Curci Trust confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act when exercising their powers and responsibilities. Further examples of working for the public benefit are given below.

Trustees ensure that all schools within the Trust adopt admissions arrangements which are in line with those of the local authority, Portsmouth City Council. In so doing, the requirements of the School Admissions are met and practices are consequently fair, clear and objective. If oversubscribed, priority is given to children in care, children with a significant medical and/or learning need, and children living in the catchment area. The Trust's schools also support inclusive practices through Portsmouth City Council's Inclusion and SEND Support Panel operations.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Public Benefit (continued)

Schools within The De Curci Trust do not make charitable donations from monies received by way of direct funding e.g. from the ESFA or Government grant. However, the pupils, parents and staff are encouraged to raise funds for local, national and international charitable causes and do so regularly. For example, Christmas Fair, sponsored pupils visit to Kenya, non-uniform days, 'MacMillan coffee mornings' etc.

The De Curci Trust ensures that appropriate regard is given to the needs of individuals with a disability, with provision of reasonable adjustments where necessary, to ensure that the recruitment and selection process is accessible to all. The Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy for Employment and Dignity at Work approach set out that the Trust will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all colleagues can access training and career development opportunities regardless of disability and/or protected characteristic. Local Governors review their school's accessibility arrangements with a view to implementing continuous improvements where feasible.

The De Curci Trust has a trade union recognition and facilities agreement in place with the following unions and professional associations: NEU, NASUWT, ASCL, NAHT, and VOICE. This allows the Trust to maintain good employment practice and industrial relations and encourages constructive communication with employees. The agreement sets out that the trust will consult the recognised union representatives on matters affecting employees.

Furthermore, the trust places a high value on communication with employees which can be evidenced over recent years by the full consultation that took place regarding the formation of the multi-academy trust in 2017 and the associated 'TUPE' process; and, more recently, constructive discussions with NEU colleagues regarding the (national) industrial action that took place during the 2022/23 academic year. The Trust conducted trust wide staff survey during the spring of 2023, with findings and ensuing recommendations being shared with the trust and local governing boards.

Strategic Report

Achievements, Performance and Key Performance Indicators

The Government recommends that school performance data for the 2022/23 academic year should be used with caution. In 2022/23, qualifications returned to pre-pandemic standards. Performance measures based on qualification results reflect this and so cannot be directly compared to measures from 2021/22. There are ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected individual schools, colleges and pupils differently.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements, Performance and Key Performance Indicators (continued)

Solent Infant School

Age range: 4 to 7

Phase: Primary

Capacity: 270

NOR: 267

Ofsted rating: Good (12th February 2020)

Pupil attendance: 95.6% (Autumn 2022/23)

Pupils eligible for free school meals at any time during the past six years: 9.7%

Ofsted Summary

This is a very welcoming and nurturing school. Pupils are happy and say that they have lots of friends. Pupils feel safe at school and say that bullying does not happen here. Leaders are keen for all pupils to succeed. Staff know the pupils well and mostly provide pupils with the right help to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Pupils enjoy coming to school and find their topics interesting. The many trips and events bring pupils' learning to life. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders need to: finish planning the sequence of knowledge, skills and vocabulary in some subjects. They need to make sure that teachers are clear what pupils need to know and remember so that they build on their learning as they move through the school; make sure that teachers have higher expectations for the most able pupils in key stage 1 and challenge them accordingly.

Provisional Summary Data 2022/23

EYFS

72% of pupils achieved a good level of development

72% of pupils achieved expected in all 17 goals (15.1% average number of ELGs at expected level per child)

Phonics (NCY1) 81% of pupils working at the expected level

Key Stage 1

60% of pupils reached the expected standard in RWM

73% of pupils reached the expected standard in reading

67% of pupils reached the expected standard in writing

73% of pupils reached the expected standard in maths

92% of pupils reached the expected standard in science

8% of pupils reached the higher standard in RWM

25% of pupils reached the higher standard in reading

12% of pupils reached the higher standard in writing

22% of pupils reached the higher standard in maths

References: PCC School Profile 2023, GOV.UK – school performance in England

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements, Performance and Key Performance Indicators (continued)

Solent Junior School

Age Range: 7 to 11 Phase: Primary Capacity: 360 NOR: 363
Ofsted rating: Good (11th March 2020) Pupil attendance: 94.8% (Autumn 2022/23)
Pupils eligible for free school meals at any time during the past six years: 12.4%

Ofsted Summary

This is a welcoming and friendly school where everybody gets along with one another. Pupils enjoy coming to school because they feel safe and well cared for. [Pupils] know that their teachers want the very best for them. Pupils understand that learning is important. This includes their lessons and the variety of other opportunities, such as school trips and visits from inspirational speakers that enrich their learning. Pupils also appreciate the wide range of clubs on offer at school. Pupils are positive, confident and have excellent manners. In the playground, they enjoy playing games with their friends without fear of bullying or unkindness. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders should: continue with their journey of improvement in reading, writing and mathematics so that the impact of leaders' successful work is reflected in pupils' achievement at the end of key stage 2; ensure that, within the foundation subjects, teachers have a clear understanding of how to check that pupils have gained the intended knowledge and skills for each unit of work.

Provisional Summary Data 2022/23

KS2 Attainment

- 53% of pupils reached the expected standard in KS2 reading, writing and maths
- 9% of pupils reached the higher standard in KS2 reading, writing and maths
- Pupils had an average KS2 reading scaled score of 104
- Pupils had an average KS2 maths scaled score of 103
- 11% of pupils scored 25 in the Multiplication Tables Check

KS2 Progress

- Pupils had a KS1 to KS2 reading progress score of -1.6 (upper confidence interval -0.3)
- Pupils had a KS1 to KS2 writing progress score of -1.3 (upper confidence interval -0.1)
- Pupils had a KS1 to KS2 maths progress score of -1.5 (upper confidence interval -0.3)

References: PCC School Profile 2023, GOV.UK – school performance in England

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Achievements, Performance and Key Performance Indicators (continued)

Springfield School

Age range: 11-16 Phase: Secondary Capacity: 1174 NOR: 1075
Ofsted rating: Good (3rd October 2019) Pupil attendance: 90.6% (Aut/Spr 2022/23)
Pupils eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years: 23.1%

Ofsted Summary

Pupils are happy and safe at this school. They behave well in lessons and around the school. They know that their teachers expect them to try their best, behave well and wear their uniform smartly. Pupils work hard in lessons and persevere with difficult work. Teachers ask them to think hard and answer difficult questions. Pupils achieve well at the school. Teachers help pupils become confident young adults who can express ideas and opinions thoughtfully. Teachers are approachable and make time to help individuals. Pupils are proud of their school and enjoy the wide range of activities and clubs on offer. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have high expectations of pupils' behaviour in school. Most pupils behave well in lessons and during break- and lunchtime. Leaders need to make sure that the behaviour of [a few pupils whose behaviour is not yet good enough] improves. Pupils study a wide range of challenging GCSE subjects, which prepares pupils well for their next steps. Leaders ... must continue to fully implement plans so that Year 9 pupils access the subject-specific knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the GCSEs they take, especially in history and geography.

Provisional Summary Data 2022/23

KS4 Attainment

Pupils had an average Attainment 8 score of 40.6
30% of pupils achieved a strong pass (grades 9 to 5) in English and maths
56% of pupils achieved a standard pass (grades 4-9) in English and maths
54% of pupils were entered for all elements of the EBacc Pupils had an EBacc APS of 3.6

KS4 Progress

Progress 8 score of -0.49 (upper confidence interval of -0.29)
Staying education or entering employment – 95% (pupils who finished KS4 in 2020/21)

References: PCC School Profile 2023, GOV.UK – school performance in England

All three of the Trust's schools were inspected by Ofsted under their revised framework during 2019/20 and found to be 'good'. Inspectors commented on the purposeful and supportive ethos of the trust, noting the effective collaboration between schools, 'Teachers have worked with staff from other trust schools to design a creative and exciting curriculum in all subjects'. However, the impact of the COVID19 pandemic and national 'cost of living crisis' on children's learning, personal development, welfare and behaviour has been significant and the trust is supporting all schools to address effectively these ongoing needs.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

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

The principal source of funding for the Trust is in the form of recurring grants from the Department for Education, the use of which is restricted under the Trust's funding agreements (refer to Statement of Financial Activities). The schools transfer funding to the Trust's central budget to cover the cost of agreed core Trust activities and roles (personnel) exclusively; in 2022/23 this represented a 2.75% share of GAG funding.

Recent inflationary pressures, including higher staff salaries and pension contributions, have inevitably impacted on schools' budgeting. All of the Trust's schools currently only receive near the minimum funding rates of the National Funding Formula. Whilst the Trust has worked hard to deliver efficiencies and make cost savings, the challenges of receiving some of the lowest per pupil funding rates within our local authority over time have meant Trustees have had to be more selective about their spending choices when they would prefer to be investing in initiatives to support the teaching and learning of pupils. The Trust has made significant financial contributions to capital projects to improve and 'make safe' the buildings in use at the schools, including repairs to classroom blocks and additional survey work at Springfield School.

Trustees are clear that the priority is to maximise the funding available to support learning and teaching within the schools, and this principle underpins all financial decisions made. The challenge for the Trust continues to be to ensure that the evolving central team is effectively deployed to provide the necessary support and challenge for the schools.

For the financial year 2022/23, the in-year surplus figure (which agrees to the change in balance of restricted general funds – excluding pension reserve and fixed asset fund, plus unrestricted funds) was a surplus of £169,077 (2022: £274,931). The actual position of reserves (restricted general funds, excluding pension reserves and fixed asset fund, plus unrestricted funds) as at 31 August 2023 was £1,362,789 (2022: £1,193,712).

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established the principle of creating and maintaining a revenue reserve of 8%-15% of income to help fund future expenditure related to the Trust's longer-term strategic aims and developments, whilst allowing for uncertainty in relation to future funding and pay awards, and providing sufficient cashflow to manage day-to day operations appropriately.

The policy of the Trust is to carry forward a level of resource designed to meet the long-term cyclical needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies particularly in relation to funding during uncertain times and/or to allow investment in particular initiatives. Any amounts greater than 10% should be earmarked for specific initiatives and/or capital projects.

The Trustees have created a capital reserve to fund planned future capital expenditure depending on the level of revenue reserves available. Individual School Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) annual allocations have not proved large enough to allow for significant projects or capital investment. At Springfield School, annual allocations have been spent in full and complimented by transfer from revenue.

The Chief Financial and Operating Officer regularly reports on the ongoing capital works programme to support the Trustees to identify the need to replace, renew, or repair assets and the related sums required. The Trustees will agree the scope and scale of works, and the financial contributions to be made towards individual projects. Spend of the capital reserve fund should only occur as agreed budgeted spend, which is approved by the Trustees as part of the budget and/or subsequent review processes. The Capital Expenditure Policy is reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee (at least every three years) and must be signed by the Chair of Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Trust.

The reserves at 31 August 2023 were as follows:

- Unrestricted (free) reserves of £905,026 (2022: £884,300)
- A restricted fixed asset fund of £10,245,006 (2022: £9,515,523), which can only be realised through disposal of tangible fixed assets
- A pension deficit of £106,000 (2022: £431,000)
- Other restricted funds of £457,763 (2022: £309,412)
- Total funds of £11,501,795 (2022: £10,278,235)

Investment Policy

The De Curci Trust does not have any material investments. Its bank accounts are with Lloyds Bank and interest is shown in the Financial Statements. This position will be kept under review in accordance with the stipulations of the Academy Trust Handbook and EFSA requirements.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks to which the Trust is exposed are:

- Shortfalls in funding which have not been anticipated;
- Impact of changes to the national funding formula;
- Teacher recruitment challenges, which impact on outcomes, staff costs and staff retention;
- Increasing staffing costs, including increased pension contribution rates and unfunded pay awards;
- Falling rolls at member schools, notably Springfield School, due to emerging competition from the University Technical College and other local schools, as well as variance in demographic need;
- Changes in Government policy regarding academies;
- Poor condition of older buildings and infrastructure e.g. roofs and heating on the Trust's school campuses;
- Managing risks associated with the condition of buildings subject to the School Rebuilding Programme (Springfield School) whilst timescales and scope of the project are uncertain;
- Increasing reliance on IT and ensuring that IT infrastructure systems are fit for purpose and secure (cyber security); and that appropriately qualified staff can be recruited to manage such systems;
- Decrease in external specialist SEND provision options/funding;
- Limited options for high-quality alternative provision in the area for pupils;
- Failures in safeguarding or health & safety procedures at schools within the Trust;
- Perceived and/or actual detrimental changes to school performance of any school in the MAT;
- Higher than anticipated costs to any capital projects included CIF funded projects;
- Increasing safeguarding and emotional/mental health needs of pupils at a time when other services have apparent capacity shortfalls;
- Risk of partial/temporary closure and increased costs due to staff ill-health absence, e.g. from COVID-19/ 'winter illness' outbreaks;
- Significantly increasing cost of energy and potential shortfall in supplies;
- Impact of 'cost of living'/inflationary pressures on staff, pupils and their families;
- Uncertainty regarding ongoing funding and pay awards affecting the Trust's ability to plan and invest; and
- Increased risk of industrial action across the sector as experienced during 2022/23.

Risks are reflected in the Trust's risk register and reviewed as a standing item by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Local Governors are also invited to review risks and contribute to their review and mitigation. The key risks above will drive the Trust's strategic priorities for the next three years with proactive action being taken to mitigate these, for example: thorough due diligence processes; investment in a model of collaborative school to school support to secure excellence at every school; a central recruitment approach to explore alternative opportunities to attract high quality staff; marketing/branding campaigns for schools within the Trust; and plans to centralise the finance function across the Trust to ensure tight control of complex budgets.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

Springfield School has recently entered the feasibility stage of the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP), having been provisionally shortlisted for the SRP in December 2022. Trustees have procured a series of additional surveys and short-term remedial works to the school site to help ensure the safety of pupils and staff pending progression of the rebuilding programme. The Trust also employs external consultants in specialist areas including health & safety and fire risk assessment to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and support best practice development. In September 2022, the Trust introduced online compliance monitoring software across its schools, along with helpdesk reporting, for building repair and maintenance, IT, and cleaning issues. The Trust regularly evaluates the condition of its buildings and employs the services of specialist surveyors to help identify condition related repairs and refurbishments, and also uses this process to inform CIF bids. Meanwhile, the schools continue to carry out ad hoc maintenance and repairs as necessary, and this is monitored by link Governors and regular reporting to committees.

Trustees and Local Governors are aware of their accountabilities for ensuring safe and well-maintained estates as highlighted in the Academy Trust Handbook and guidance publications including the DfE's 'Good estate management for schools'. Induction and ongoing training opportunities are made available for Trustees as well as executive colleagues in order to support them with the execution of these responsibilities. Trustees and Governors regularly undertake site visits in order to deepen their understanding of ongoing capital developments.

Fundraising

As part of its work within the community, the Academy Trust undertakes fundraising activities, for example through fetes, cake sales, non-uniform days etc.

The Academy Trust raises funds in order to support its own operations and also to make donations to local and national charities. The Academy Trust undertakes all such activities itself, with the help of its pupils 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.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

Plans for Future Periods

The De Curci Trust's overarching strategic goal remains 'achieving excellent outcomes for all children'. The ambition, therefore, is for all schools to develop outstanding teaching, learning and assessment which leads to pupils making substantial progress; and developing excellent knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their different ages and starting points. The Trust takes a holistic view to pupil outcomes; in addition to their formal learning, pupils' wellbeing, character/personal development and participation in and enjoyment of school life are of importance.

Underpinning this strategic intention are four key areas of strategic development for the next three-year period; these build upon the 'Objectives, Strategies and Activities' cited previously. In summary:

1. School improvement – Develop purposeful collaboration in subject and pedagogical areas to drive continuous improvement in the quality of teaching, learning and intervention. All of our schools will be safe, well-led and improving. Every teacher will be as good as they can be in what they teach (curriculum) and how they teach (pedagogy).
2. Governance and Leadership - Continue to invest in developing the skills and competencies of those with responsibilities for governance. A secure and transferable operating model for governance will be produced/maintained which will support trust growth, as appropriate.
3. Managing the Organisation - Establish efficient and effective shared services, including IT, HR, finance and estates. Strategically and sustainably manage and improve the estate, including compliance monitoring. Safe, engaging physical environment which supports effective learning in all schools. Develop a Digital Strategy to support learning and operations across our schools; assume a leading role in Portsmouth's Digital City Project.
4. Growth - Grow the trust with more pupils and/or more provision/schools in contexts that will strengthen the trust. Growth results in an enhanced provision offer which benefits pupils and staff – 'better together'.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

There were no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

The De Curci Trust

Trustees' Report

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 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Susan Hamilton

S Hamilton
Chair of Trustees

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The De Curci 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, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The De Curci 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 four 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
C Batstone	4	4
A Beane (resigned 30 January 2023)	1	2
A Cufley	4	4
A Eales	1	4
S Hamilton	4	4
D Smith	4	4
S Spivey	4	4
L Wilby (resigned 29 November 2022)	1	1

In addition to the four full board meetings, trustees conducted three Finance, Audit and Risk committee meetings and three Human Resource committee meetings during the year. Trustees reviewed management reports (financial) each month. Oversight was complemented by the work of Local Governors in accordance with the scheme of delegation (governance) and audit/review work.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and supervision of the Academy Trust, its committees (including the Local Governing Bodies) and the senior leadership team. The Trustees have a number of duties and responsibilities relating to the management of the Trust and its finances.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

In summary, the Trustees are responsible for:

- Establishing the vision, mission and values for the Academy Trust;
- Carrying on the Academy Trust in accordance with the objects of the Academy Trust as set out in the Articles;
- Safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust;
- Designing strategy and structure for the operation of the Academy Trust;
- The delegation of running the Academies and directing the education, safeguarding/pastoral care, financial and other policies of the Academies to Local Governing Bodies and the senior leadership team;
- Ensuring sound management and administration of the Academy Trust, and ensuring that managers are equipped with the relevant skills, guidance and time (capacity);
- Financial controls and the financial management of the Academy Trust in accordance with the provisions of the Academy Trust Handbook;
- Setting standards of conduct and values, monitoring performance and the achievement of objectives, and ensuring that plans for improvement are acted upon;
- Risk management, that is identifying, quantifying and devising systems to minimise the major risks affecting the Academy Trust; and
- Ensuring that all aspects of the Academy Trust and the Academies are conducted in compliance with the general law.

The work of the board of Trustees therefore includes:

- Approving the annual budget for the Trust and overseeing the finances, including the internal audit process;
- Ensuring compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and the Trust's funding agreement; managing risk and business continuity;
- Establishing and maintaining effective policies and procedures, including those pertaining to safeguarding children, across academies in the Trust;
- Maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum;
- Overseeing key performance indicators and educational achievement in academy schools; and
- Overseeing strategic development of the Trust.

Key Areas of Work for the Board of Trustees

The De Curci Trust has continued close collaboration between its three schools during the 2022/23 year. The streamlining of operating systems has been beneficial to administrative efficiency. Trustees commissioned the development of a Digital Strategy, drawing on expertise from both outside and within the organisation, including from the Trust's IT Operations Manager, to take this forward.

Supported by the Company Secretary (Governance Professional) and Executive Team, the Board of Trustees continued to follow the set schedule for the review, development and implementation of the Trust's 100 plus policies. The De Curci Trust website (and those of all schools) are regularly reviewed, and plans exist to upgrade the website over the next twelve months.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Board and ad hoc meetings have been well attended. Trustees understand their roles and responsibilities. The data received by the Board is of a high quality and gives them the information they need for making informed and strategic decisions. A variety of training/professional development opportunities are available for Trustees (and also Members and Local Governors) to develop their knowledge and expertise. This includes required training such as annual safeguarding training, which during the 2022/23 year was commissioned by and for Trustees via the NSPCC. The Trust has been proactive in recruiting new Trustees and Local Governors to the organisation where vacancies have existed.

In keeping with other multi-academy trusts, The De Curci Trust has faced several challenges this year: logistical, financial and industrial (all schools were affected by the NEU's national industrial action). Trustees have worked throughout the year to meet the needs of Trust schools, balance risk and maintain a satisfactory budgetary position. Staff absence (NEU industrial action and some ill-health/COVID-19 absence) presented significant challenges, including partial school closures, during the academic year. Trustees have made themselves available to support the Executive Team with key decisions and information sharing.

Trustees continue to monitor and challenge the overall educational performance of all schools on a regular basis, with apposite reports from all three schools at each board meeting. Trustees have paid particular attention to curriculum developments and the needs of/provision for vulnerable learners.

The Trust made four bids in the 2022/23 round of the ESFA's Condition Improvement Fund; unfortunately, none of these were successful. They included a bid for roof replacement at Solent Infant School, window replacement at Solent Junior School, and roof and boiler replacement at Springfield School.

The minutes of the Human Resources Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee go to each Trustee and are examined at Board meetings. Trustees are further informed of the Trust's financial position by accessing monthly budgetary management reports via the Trust's cloud storage centre. The Trust developed an improved Safeguarding Strategy approach over the year; cross-trust Safeguarding Forum meetings (with link Governors and Trustees in attendance) take place each term, and the minutes are shared with Trustees.

Throughout the year Trustees acknowledged the on-going high degree of pressure that staff, and in particular the leadership teams, continued to work under. Ways of improving staff well-being and workload reduction were considered at both Trust and Local Governing Board levels and remain as agenda items. The Trust invests in wellbeing support services for employees, and its offer was reviewed by the Human Resources Committee this year.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

Finance

- Maintain a strategic financial overview of income and expenditure and undertake forward planning for the Trust;
- Adopt a Trust wide procurement policy and to monitor all arrangements for achieving value for money;
- Establish and maintain a process for local management of assets and make sure the Asset Management Plan is regularly updated;
- Oversee the Trust's Fraud Prevention Strategy;
- Review the budget, Annual Report and Accounts and make recommendations to the Board and Members;
- Oversee significant capital developments and any campus expansion;
- Approve Trustees' expenses;
- Review the Contingency and Business Continuity Plan;
- Receive and consider reports from the Chief Financial and Operations Officer and from auditors;
- Review reports in relation to the Trust's buildings and grounds; and
- Act in compliance with the Trusts' Funding Agreement, the Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust's Articles of Association and schemes of Financial Delegation.

Audit and Risk

- Achieve a robust system of internal scrutiny that adheres to the principles set out in the Academy Trust Handbook, by putting in place and monitoring, the effectiveness of a process for checking financial systems, controls, transactions and risks;
- Instigate and maintain an effective risk management process;
- Advise the Trust on audit requirements and the appointment of external auditors;
- Review the auditor's plan each year; and
- Assess the effectiveness and resources of the external auditor and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and Members on re-appointment or dismissal.

In carrying out these duties Trustees fulfilled their responsibilities relating to:

- The Academy Trust Handbook;
- Related Party Transactions;
- Controlling executive pay;
- Scrutinising the budget;
- Acting on audit findings;
- Financial returns; and
- Providing governance and executive details.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Attendance at meetings in the year 2022/23 was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Hamilton	2	3
S Spivey	3	3
C Batstone	3	3
A Eales	2	3
D Smith	2	3
A Beane (resigned 30 January 2023)	1	1
L Wilby (resigned 29 November 2022)	0	1

Conflicts of interest:

In accordance with the Trust's Declarations of Interests Policy, persons involved in governance decisions (i.e. Members, Trustees, Local Governors and Senior Employees) are required annually to disclose (in writing) any other relationship they have with the Academy Trust (or could potentially have) including: under a contract of employment or a contract for goods or services; trusteeships and governorships at other educational institutions/ charities; any family members which might be employed and/or contract with the Academy Trust; and details of any company or firm with which they or a family member are connected that does or may have dealings with the Academy Trust. All governance meetings include a standing agenda item which asks attendees to declare any interest they might have in connection with the agenda items in advance. Individuals presented with a conflict of interest are removed from the decision-making process by:

- 'Conflicted individuals' absenting themselves from any discussion relating to the matter, unless expressly invited to remain in order to provide information only.
- 'Conflicted individuals' not taking part in any vote on the matter.
- 'Conflicted individuals' not being counted in the quorum in relation to that decision.

All decisions made following the declaration of conflict of interest will be entered in the meeting's minutes, recording the nature of the conflict, an outline of the discussion and the actions taken to manage the conflict.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Governance reviews:

A facilitated 'strategy day' was held in February 2022 during which the strengths and areas for development of the trust were considered, in addition to a discussion on the significance of cultural alignment and related due diligence. This review gave direction to the working of the trust over 2022/23.

The strengths of the Trust identified included:

- Strong values driven culture;
- Expertise across the full age range (3-16);
- Good research background (including effective pedagogy);
- Strong staff development (growing our own staff);
- Trust seen as a 'good employer' (a good place to work);
- Strong and effective governance including a willingness to challenge;
- Good knowledge of governance systems and processes;
- Strong leadership at all levels across the Trust;
- Good knowledge of, and systems for, safeguarding;
- Consistent primary curriculum intent (utilising the action research community);
- Secondary curriculum strong by subject;
- Strong transitional processes (across the cluster);
- Strong and effective 'back office' including financial management;
- Effective knowledge of, and skills in, bidding e.g. CIF.

It was felt that there were no specific areas of weakness. There were however areas that were still being developed so they will become areas of strength. These included:

- Curriculum sharing within and between Key Stages;
- Recruitment and retention - although this is already fairly strong, it was felt there is still work to do;
- Succession planning – as indicated above this is an area that is already established but would benefit from further development across the Trust;
- Working with SEND pupils – it was noted that the demographic for the schools is changing, and that inclusion is a political issue in the community;
- Communication – it was noted that this is an area that all organisations have to keep under constant review and development;
- Reporting to the Trust Board;
- Systems alignment;
- IT and data systems for both infrastructure and Teaching and Learning.

The De Curci Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Although the Trust is in a sound financial position it was recognised that there would be opportunities for economies of scale should the Trust increase the number of schools (or expand its own provision). Consideration was then given as to how the Trust may grow, including developing and extending the current schools and their provision. Trustees and Local Governors considered how senior leadership posts would need to be developed to meet current and anticipated capacity needs and approved a plan to remodel at executive/SLT level. An interim 'Head of School' post (Springfield School) was put into place from November 2022 in order to create more capacity for the CEO.

Purposeful meetings were held with Trustees and the Chairs of the Local Governing Boards to review the Scheme of Governance and key communications. The Chair conducts 1:1 meetings with Trustees annually; and Trustee skills audits are completed periodically. The CEO met with colleagues at the RSC and Portsmouth City Council regarding potential future developments. Feedback from all self-evaluation work is drawn upon to support/plan future developments.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

The Accounting Officer, supported by the CFOO, has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Ensuring best value principles are applied to procurement processes, and sharing resources across the Trust
- Utilising the skills and experience of support staff across the Trust to minimise the need for external works or consultancy
- Regularly monitoring of monthly management reports
- Continuing investment in facilities improvement, and using funding to help identify, maintain and repair any issues with building condition

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 The De Curci Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The De Curci 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function for 2022-23 and decided to appoint a Chief Financial Officer from another multi-academy trust to perform a peer financial review and an independent Health & Safety Consultant to conduct a health and safety review.

Reports were provided to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit and Risk Committee, for scrutiny; these included information on the operation of the systems of control and the discharge of Trustees' financial responsibilities. An annual summary report was provided to the Audit and Risk Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to support Trustees to assess year on year progress and consider future actions.

The internal auditors' role included giving advice on financial and health & safety matters, and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the period included:

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of purchase systems
- Testing of control account/bank reconciliations
- Testing of compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Testing of health & safety compliance

This audit work was completed as planned. A review of each internal scrutiny report was undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee to evaluate its relevance, content, and usefulness.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Susan Hamilton

S Hamilton
Chair of Trustees

S F Spivey

S Spivey
Accounting Officer

The De Curci Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of The De Curci 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 2022, 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 2022.

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

S F Spivey

S Spivey
Accounting Officer
4 December 2023

The De Curci 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 2022 to 2023
- 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 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Susan Hamilton

S Hamilton
Chair of Trustees

The De Curci Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The De Curci Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The De Curci Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2022 to 2023 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 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 2022 to 2023.

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.

The De Curci Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The De Curci 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.

The De Curci Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The De Curci 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 2022, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

The De Curci Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The De Curci 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.



G Brown FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

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

19 Dec 2023

Date

The De Curci Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The De Curci 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 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The De Curci Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The De Curci Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant
The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The De Curci Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

The De Curci Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The De Curci 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 2022) (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.

The De Curci Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant’s Assurance Report on Regularity to The De Curci 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



G Brown FCCA
Reporting Accountant
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Chartered Accountants
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

19 Dec 2023

Date

The De Curci Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	2	-	5,111	-	518,910	524,021	137,005
Other trading activities	4	20,481	-	-	-	20,481	19,328
Investments	5	245	-	-	-	245	196
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	10,667,184	-	-	10,667,184	9,705,378
Total		20,726	10,672,295	-	518,910	11,211,931	9,861,907
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	7	-	10,130,779	123,000	182,592	10,436,371	10,635,482
Net income / (expenditure)		20,726	541,516	(123,000)	336,318	775,560	(773,575)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(393,165)	-	393,165	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	-	448,000	-	448,000	3,263,000
Net movement in funds		20,726	148,351	325,000	729,483	1,223,560	2,489,425
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		884,300	309,412	(431,000)	9,515,523	10,278,235	7,788,810
Total funds carried forward		905,026	457,763	(106,000)	10,245,006	11,501,795	10,278,235

The notes on pages 42 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

The De Curci Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 10646541

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		9,834,831		9,515,523
Current assets					
Stock	13	9,430		8,231	
Debtors	14	840,959		593,819	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,306,689</u>		<u>1,932,906</u>	
		3,157,078		2,534,956	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(1,366,543)</u>		<u>(1,319,155)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,790,535</u>		<u>1,215,801</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			11,625,366		10,731,324
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	16		<u>(17,571)</u>		<u>(22,089)</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			11,607,795		10,709,235
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		(106,000)		(431,000)
Total net assets			<u>11,501,795</u>		<u>10,278,235</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	17	10,245,006		9,515,523	
Restricted income fund	17	457,763		309,412	
Pension reserve	17	<u>(106,000)</u>		<u>(431,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			10,596,769		9,393,935
Unrestricted income funds	17		905,026		884,300
Total funds			<u>11,501,795</u>		<u>10,278,235</u>

The financial statements on pages 39 to 65 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Susan Hamilton
Susan Hamilton
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 42 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

The De Curci Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	20	168,327	77,606
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(3,012)	15,588
Cash flows from investing activities	22	208,468	146,369
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>373,783</u>	<u>239,563</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		1,932,906	1,693,343
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	23	<u>2,306,689</u>	<u>1,932,906</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

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 2022 to 2023 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.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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:

Leasehold Land and Buildings	125 years straight line on buildings; not provided on land
Furniture and Equipment	3-4 years straight line
Computer Equipment	3-10 years straight line
Motor Vehicles	10 years straight line

No depreciation has been provided on long leasehold land as it is similar to freehold land, which does not require depreciation.

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.

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.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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.

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.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 26.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	518,910	518,910	131,041
Other donations	-	5,111	5,111	5,964
	-	524,021	524,021	137,005
<i>Total 2022</i>	-	<i>137,005</i>	<i>137,005</i>	

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	9,004,378	9,004,378	8,521,026
Pupil Premium	-	375,861	375,861	324,712
UIFSM	-	106,004	106,004	73,149
Rates reclaim	-	53,681	53,681	74,948
PE and sports grant	-	37,370	37,370	37,360
Other DfE grants	-	489,188	489,188	213,931
	-	10,066,482	10,066,482	9,245,126
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	225,250	225,250	251,350
Other government grants	-	5,529	5,529	28,633
	-	230,779	230,779	279,983
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Other Coronavirus funding	-	-	-	17,024
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Trip income	-	243,863	243,863	76,761
Catering income	-	43,413	43,413	39,042
Other income	-	82,647	82,647	47,442
	-	369,923	369,923	163,245
	-	10,667,184	10,667,184	9,705,378
<i>Total 2022</i>	-	9,705,378	9,705,378	

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	20,481	-	20,481	19,328
<i>Total 2022</i>	19,328	-	19,328	

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	245	-	245	196
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>196</i>	

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
		Premises	Other		
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	6,695,261	-	958,379	7,653,640	6,937,572
Allocated support costs	1,300,332	755,417	726,982	2,782,731	3,697,910
	<u>7,995,593</u>	<u>755,417</u>	<u>1,685,361</u>	<u>10,436,371</u>	<u>10,635,482</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>7,876,599</i>	<i>1,410,513</i>	<i>1,348,370</i>	<i>10,635,482</i>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	12,344	12,631
Depreciation	172,878	144,438
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	10,330	9,390
Other services	4,895	5,825

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	7,653,640	6,937,572
Support costs – educational operations	2,782,731	3,697,910
	<u>10,436,371</u>	<u>10,635,482</u>

Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2022/23	2021/22
	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	1,300,332	1,300,332	1,670,291
Depreciation	108,210	108,210	72,195
Technology costs	111,125	111,125	79,024
Premises costs	755,417	755,417	1,410,513
Legal costs - other	3,755	3,755	3,825
Other support costs	485,854	485,854	447,029
Governance costs	18,038	18,038	15,033
Total support costs	<u>2,782,731</u>	<u>2,782,731</u>	<u>3,697,910</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>3,697,910</u>	<u>3,697,910</u>	

Premises costs includes £9,714 (2022: £680,822) in respect of expenditure on capital projects, which were funded by capital grants from the ESFA.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8 Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	5,920,056	5,465,539
Social security costs	568,060	531,805
Pension costs	1,374,157	1,715,034
	<u>7,862,273</u>	<u>7,712,378</u>
Agency staff costs	133,320	164,221
	<u>7,995,593</u>	<u>7,876,599</u>

b) Staff numbers

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
Teachers	98	99
Administration and support	101	104
Management	19	21
	<u>218</u>	<u>224</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:

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	3
£70,001 - £80,000	4	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1

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 £983,415 (2022: £710,088).

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

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

The value of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2022/23	2021/22
		£000	£000
S Spivey (Staff trustee)	Remuneration	105-110	100-105
	Employer’s pension contributions paid	25-30	20-25
L Wilby (Staff trustee to 29 November 2022)	Remuneration	15-20	40-45
	Employer’s pension contributions paid	0-5	10-15

During the period ended 31 August 2023, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022: none).

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

11 Central Services

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

- Human resources
- Governance
- Other professional services

The academy trust charges for these services on a flat percentage of income (2.1%). The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Solent Infant School	26,916	23,340
Solent Junior School	42,106	31,353
Springfield School	174,550	136,487
	<u>243,572</u>	<u>191,180</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	9,572,911	125,058	317,099	7,939	10,023,007
Acquisitions	-	-	492,186	-	492,186
At 31 August 2023	<u>9,572,911</u>	<u>125,058</u>	<u>809,285</u>	<u>7,939</u>	<u>10,515,193</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	252,706	32,497	214,342	7,939	507,484
Charged in year	63,840	23,136	85,902	-	172,878
At 31 August 2023	<u>316,546</u>	<u>55,633</u>	<u>300,244</u>	<u>7,939</u>	<u>680,362</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2022	9,320,205	92,561	102,757	-	9,515,523
At 31 August 2023	<u>9,256,365</u>	<u>69,425</u>	<u>509,041</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,834,831</u>

13 Stock

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Other stocks	<u>9,430</u>	<u>8,231</u>

14 Debtors

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Trade debtors	15,838	14,189
VAT recoverable	63,683	162,006
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>761,438</u>	<u>417,624</u>
	<u>840,959</u>	<u>593,819</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Trade creditors	265,434	426,645
Other taxation and social security	128,840	123,985
Loans falling due within one year	3,011	1,505
Other creditors falling due within one year	177,354	142,524
Accruals and deferred income	791,904	624,496
	<u>1,366,543</u>	<u>1,319,155</u>

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	99,839	33,243
Released from previous years	(99,839)	(33,243)
Resources deferred in the year	197,609	99,839
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>197,609</u>	<u>99,839</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for grants and other income received in respect of the forthcoming financial year.

Loans falling due within one year represents interest-free Salix energy efficiency loans, which are repayable in bi-annual instalments.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Loans falling due in greater than one year	<u>17,571</u>	<u>22,089</u>

Loans falling due in greater than one year represents interest-free Salix energy efficiency loans, which are repayable in bi-annual instalments.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	281,291	9,004,378	(8,462,862)	(365,044)	-	457,763
Pupil premium	-	375,861	(375,861)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	106,004	(106,004)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	53,681	(53,681)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	37,370	(37,370)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	489,188	(489,188)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	225,250	(225,250)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	5,529	(5,529)	-	-	-
Amenities Fund	28,121	-	-	(28,121)	-	-
Other educational activities	-	375,034	(375,034)	-	-	-
	309,412	10,672,295	(10,130,779)	(393,165)	-	457,763
Pension reserve	(431,000)	-	(123,000)	-	448,000	(106,000)
	(121,588)	10,672,295	(10,253,779)	(393,165)	448,000	351,763
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	9,515,523	-	(172,878)	492,186	-	9,834,831
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	111,392	(9,714)	-	-	101,678
Other capital grants	-	407,518	-	(407,518)	-	-
School contribution	-	-	-	308,497	-	308,497
	9,515,523	518,910	(182,592)	393,165	-	10,245,006
Total restricted funds	9,393,935	11,191,205	(10,436,371)	-	448,000	10,596,769
Total unrestricted funds	884,300	20,726	-	-	-	905,026
Total funds	10,278,235	11,211,931	(10,436,371)	-	448,000	11,501,795

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17 Funds (continued)

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-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.

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 2023.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Solent Infant School	213,200	181,104
Solent Junior School	192,040	180,838
Springfield School	916,908	797,898
Central services	40,641	33,872
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>1,362,789</u>	<u>1,193,712</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	10,245,006	9,515,523
Pension reserve	(106,000)	(431,000)
Total	<u>11,501,795</u>	<u>10,278,235</u>

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) £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Solent Infant School	908,074	212,379	80,009	209,565	1,410,027	1,583,093
Solent Junior School	1,261,403	261,580	142,639	217,285	1,882,907	2,243,671
Springfield School	4,525,784	826,373	671,063	947,339	6,970,559	6,664,280
	<u>6,695,261</u>	<u>1,300,332</u>	<u>893,711</u>	<u>1,374,189</u>	<u>10,263,493</u>	<u>10,491,044</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,521,026	(7,997,022)	(242,713)	-	281,291
Pupil premium	-	324,712	(324,712)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	73,149	(73,149)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	74,948	(74,948)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	25,884	37,360	(63,244)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	213,931	(213,931)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	251,350	(251,350)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	28,633	(28,633)	-	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	17,024	(17,024)	-	-	-
Amenities Fund	28,121	-	-	-	-	28,121
Other educational activities	-	169,209	(169,209)	-	-	-
	54,005	9,711,342	(9,213,222)	(242,713)	-	309,412
Pension reserve	(3,097,000)	-	(597,000)	-	3,263,000	(431,000)
	(3,042,995)	9,711,342	(9,810,222)	(242,713)	3,263,000	(121,588)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	9,548,105	-	(144,438)	111,856	-	9,515,523
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	95,713	36,676	(192,906)	60,517	-	-
ESFA capital grants (CIF)	292,848	94,365	(487,916)	100,703	-	-
School contribution	30,363	-	-	(30,363)	-	-
	9,967,029	131,041	(825,260)	242,713	-	9,515,523
Total restricted funds	6,924,034	9,842,383	(10,635,482)	-	3,263,000	9,393,935
Total unrestricted funds	864,776	19,524	-	-	-	884,300
Total funds	7,788,810	9,861,907	(10,635,482)	-	3,263,000	10,278,235

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	9,834,831	9,834,831
Current assets	905,026	1,841,877	-	410,175	3,157,078
Current liabilities	-	(1,366,543)	-	-	(1,366,543)
Non-current liabilities	-	(17,571)	-	-	(17,571)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(106,000)	-	(106,000)
Total net assets	905,026	457,763	(106,000)	10,245,006	11,501,795

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	-	-	-	9,515,523	9,515,523
Current assets	884,300	1,650,656	-	-	2,534,956
Current liabilities	-	(1,319,155)	-	-	(1,319,155)
Non-current liabilities	-	(22,089)	-	-	(22,089)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(431,000)	-	(431,000)
Total net assets	884,300	309,412	(431,000)	9,515,523	10,278,235

19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	12,282	8,318
Amounts due between one and five years	23,529	22,834
	35,811	31,152

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period	775,560	(773,575)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	172,878	144,438
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(518,910)	(131,041)
Interest receivable	(245)	(196)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	104,000	546,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19,000	51,000
Increase in stocks	(1,199)	(5,664)
Increase in debtors	(46,393)	(93,102)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(336,364)	339,746
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>168,327</u>	<u>77,606</u>

21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(3,012)	(500)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	16,088
Net cash (used in) / provided by financing activities	<u>(3,012)</u>	<u>15,588</u>

22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	245	196
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(109,940)	(111,856)
Capital grants from DfE Group	(89,355)	258,029
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	407,518	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>208,468</u>	<u>146,369</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,306,689</u>	<u>1,932,906</u>

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries £	New finance leases £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	1,932,906	373,783	-	-	-	2,306,689
Loans falling due within one year	(1,505)	(1,506)	-	-	-	(3,011)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(22,089)	4,518	-	-	-	(17,571)
Total	<u>1,909,312</u>	<u>376,795</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,286,107</u>

25 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.

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

26 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 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £146,146 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £138,845) 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 specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

The 31 March 2016 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 September 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

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

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £950,781 (2022: £881,489).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy Trust 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 2023 was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	311,000	274,000
Employees' contributions	102,000	87,000
	<u>413,000</u>	<u>361,000</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

	2023	2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	3.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.0%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.1%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	2.7%
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:

	2023	2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.9
Females	<u>24.7</u>	<u>25.4</u>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.6	24.7
Females	<u>25.7</u>	<u>27.1</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(105,000)	(119,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	105,000	124,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	191,000	128,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(191,000)	(128,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	101,000	109,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(101,000)	(109,000)

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	2,748,000	2,504,000
Gilts	1,490,000	657,000
Property	279,000	337,000
Cash and other liquid assets	140,000	39,000
Other	-	787,000
Total market value of assets	<u>4,657,000</u>	<u>4,324,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was a loss of £29,000 (2022: £278,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	415,000	820,000
Interest income	(185,000)	(75,000)
Interest cost	204,000	126,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>434,000</u>	<u>871,000</u>

The De Curci Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September	4,755,000	7,369,000
Current service cost	415,000	820,000
Interest cost	204,000	126,000
Employee contributions	102,000	87,000
Actuarial gain	(662,000)	(3,616,000)
Benefits paid	(51,000)	(31,000)
At 31 August	<u>4,763,000</u>	<u>4,755,000</u>

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September	4,324,000	4,272,000
Interest income	185,000	75,000
Actuarial loss	(214,000)	(353,000)
Employer contributions	311,000	274,000
Employee contributions	102,000	87,000
Benefits paid	(51,000)	(31,000)
At 31 August	<u>4,657,000</u>	<u>4,324,000</u>

27 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.