

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

# THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

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# THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>Members</b>	M Gurr N Lowe (resigned 15 May 2023) E Goodings K Bailey L Miles S Collom C Bucknell (appointed 1 August 2023)
<b>Trustees</b>	A Burden (appointed 1 September 2022) A Hawes C Bucknell (appointed 29 September 2022) C Knightley (resigned 15 September 2023) C Fairley E Goodings (resigned 1 August 2023) J Scarpenter J Shakallis K Jordan K Brown (appointed 29 September 2022) K Bailey K Banks (appointed 30 April 2023, resigned 3 October 2023) L Miles (resigned 1 August 2023) S Rider S Ash (resigned 29 November 2022) S Hansen (resigned 5 September 2022) T Williams (appointed 24 May 2023) N Van Veggel (resigned 9 January 2023)
<b>Company number</b>	07477728
<b>Company name</b>	The Flitch Green Academy
<b>Registered and principal office</b>	The Flitch Green Academy Tanton Road Dunmow CM6 3GG
<b>Accounting Officer</b>	A Burden (appointed 1 September 2022)
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	A Burden, Principal S Evans, Vice Principal N Mead, Finance and Business Manager E Hodgkinson, Acting Vice Principal L McCann, SENCo
<b>Independent Auditors</b>	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford CM23 3BT

# THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements and Auditor's Report of The Flitch Green Academy ("the Charitable Company" or "the Trust") for the year to 31 August 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving the catchment area of Flitch Green, Essex. It has a pupil capacity of 300 and had a roll of 279 in the school census on 6th October 2023.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Constitution**

The 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. The Trustees are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as The Flitch Green Academy ("the School" or "The Academy").

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 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' and Officers' Indemnities**

The Trust has secured insurance cover through Zurich Insurance. The policy protects Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business, and provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and Officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the Trust policy.

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The arrangements are as set out in the Articles and Funding Agreement. Trustees are appointed for a fixed term. The Principal is an ex officio member of the Governing Body (also referred to as "The Board of Trustees" or "The Board"). Parent Trustees and the staff Trustees are elected to office or appointed if there are insufficient candidates offering themselves for election. The Articles of Association make provision for 15 Trustees (6 parents, 1 staff – teaching, 1 staff non-teaching, and 6 others plus the Accounting Officer).

Parent Trustees are approached individually, as well as a whole group. Unless elected unopposed, parent Trustees will be elected via a vote. Staff Trustees are elected through the same process as parent Trustees. Other Trustees are approached individually and voted on to the Governing Body by the current Trustees.

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

The Trust is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust provides internal training led by School staff and also links with a number of local training providers.

All new Trustees have an induction programme, according to their need, which includes introductory sessions, mentoring, formal training courses, and a tour of the School. This process will involve a meeting with the Chair, selected students and staff. All Trustees are provided with copies of the documents they will need to undertake their role, which include but are not limited to: Keeping Children Safe in Education, Child Protection Policy, Governors Code of Conduct, Academy Trust Handbook and Managing Public Money. Training is monitored throughout the year by the designated link Governor.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### **Organisational Structure**

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department of Education. The organisational structure of the Trust consists of three levels: Members, Trustees and Leadership Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in making major strategic decisions at all levels.

The Governing Body, which meets on at least four occasions per year and each individual committee at least three times per year, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. The Governing Body reviews progress towards educational objectives and results; approves major expenditure requests; sets the budget for the following year; agrees the organisational staffing structure; agrees the performance objectives of the Principal with the School Improvement Partner, and reviews them.

The Principal is the designated Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Charitable Company. The Principal has delegated responsibility for authorising spending within the agreed budgets and in agreement with either the Vice Principal or Finance and Business Manager, up to a limit of £20,000. The Vice Principal and Finance and Business Manager can authorise all orders up to £5,000. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee can authorise orders between £20,001 and £100,000 and the Governing Body must authorise any orders over £100,000. A system of financial controls is in place to manage this process subject to the appropriate tendering procedures.

The Leadership Team for the Trust are the Principal, Vice Principal, the Finance and Business Manager, and SENCo. These managers control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. They meet frequently to discuss emerging matters and help develop strategies for future development to be put to the Governing Body as required for approval.

#### **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Key management personnel include Trustees and those staff to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors, such as the school group size, the pay scales for each role, the range of duties and responsibilities and the level of experience of each staff member. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards, the ability to recruit and retain in post, all of which are in accordance with the Trust's appointment and pay policies.

All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration (excluding the Principal) are approved by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The Principal's pay and remuneration is approved by the Remuneration Committee and ratified by the full Governing Body.

#### **Trade Union Facility Time**

The Trust has no employees that are Trade Union Representatives.

#### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Governing Body being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Trustee may have a pecuniary interest is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academy Trust Handbook.

With the exception of a donation from the Friends of Flitch Green there were no related party transactions in the year ending 31st August 2023. The Trust also works closely with Cambridge University.

The Trust does not have a formal sponsor.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### Objectives and Activities

##### Objects and Aims

The principal object and aim of the Charitable Company is the operation of The Flitch Green Academy to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 11. Specifically to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values.

The Trust's main strategy is encompassed in its vision statement; 'To provide creative learning experiences which will inspire and challenge our children to maximise their academic potential. Ensuring children leave us as honest, kind and respectful young people, equipped with the skills to continue their journey as lifelong learners'.

##### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

During the year the Trust has worked towards these aims by:

- ensuring that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- raising the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- developing resilient, resourceful students;
- adapting and applying skills for flexible life-long learning;
- improving the effectiveness of the School by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- providing value for money for the funds expended; and
- conducting the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity.

Our success in fulfilling our aims can be measured by:

- our dedication to pursue excellence through stimulated and active learning, so that achievements of all are recognised and celebrated;
- developing enquiring minds through experience and discovery;
- ensuring all children are active learners engaged in a broad, creative and balanced curriculum using up to date facilities and technologies;
- developing an environment in which courtesy, mutual respect and good manners are of great importance;
- pursuing academic excellence and to create a culture of high achievement;
- raising educational standards, individual achievement and progress;
- ensuring high quality teaching and support for learning, which uses the best possible techniques and approaches;
- developing appropriately personalised pathways through the curriculum, which ensure both breadth and balance and the opportunity to develop special skills and talents;
- providing high levels of pastoral care, personal coaching and family support with an emphasis on individual pupil needs;
- providing structured opportunities for extension and broadening of experience beyond the limits of the local area;
- ensuring regular participation and achievement in physical activity and sport;
- championing the development of self-esteem and self-worth in each pupil; and
- bringing about collaborative partnerships for learning with a range of other organisations.

##### Human Equalities Policy

The Trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities, including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### Disabled Persons

Disabled toilets are installed and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all the main areas of the School. The policy of the Trust is to support recruitment and retention of pupils and employees with disabilities. The Trust does this by adapting the physical environment, by making resources available and through training and career development.

#### Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that by working towards the objects and aims of the Trust as detailed above, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

#### Strategic Report

##### Achievements and Performance

The Trust continued its mission to ensure that students achieved their potential in public examinations; encouraged a wide range of extra-curricular activities; developed and retained suitable staff and guided students in suitable progression when they left the School.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 The Flitch Green Academy was assessed by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). There was no change to the schools overall judgement of 'Good' and inspectors recommended that the next inspection be a graded inspection. Overall, the inspection provided clarity for the existing strategic and operational plans for the future.

##### Key Stage 2 outcomes 2023:

Reading: 86% achieved the expected standard, with an average scaled score of 107.  
31% of children achieved the 'high standard'.

Writing: 66% achieved the expected standards.  
14% of children were working at greater depth within the expected standard.

Maths: 72% achieved the expected standard, with an average scaled score of 104.  
24% of children achieved the 'high standard'.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling:  
86% achieved the expected standard, with an average scaled score of 106.  
28% of children achieved the 'high standard'.

Reading, Writing and Maths combined:  
55% of children achieved the expected standard in all three subjects.

##### Key Stage 1 Outcomes 2023:

Reading: 69% of children achieved the expected standard.  
21% of children were working at greater depth within the expected standard.

Writing: 55% of children achieved the expected standard.  
7% of children were working at greater depth within the expected standard.

Maths: 71% of children achieved the expected standard.  
24% of children were working at greater depth within the expected standard.

Reading, Writing and Maths combined:  
55% of children achieved the expected standard in all three subjects.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check:

82% of Year 1 children achieved the required standard in the Year 1 Phonics check

EYFS – Good Level of Development:

77% of children achieved the Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Pupil attendance stood at 93.64% for the period, compared with the national average of 96%.

#### **Key Performance Indicators (KPI)**

Regular information is reported at each Curriculum Committee meeting to enable Trustees to monitor the educational performance of the Trust compared to its aims and development plan.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2023 were 275.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total grant income. For 2022/23 this was 79% against set parameters of 80%. The Governing Body is confident that staffing levels are closely monitored to agreed Full Time Equivalent and staffing structures previously approved.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee also monitor premises costs to General Annual Grant (GAG) income, capitation spend for curriculum departments to GAG income, total income less grants and cash flow on a regular basis to ensure that the budget is set and managed appropriately. All of the above KPI's were within the parameters set by the Governing Body.

#### **Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the 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.



## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### Financial Review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the GAG and other grants that it receives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For the year ended 31 August 2023 the Trust received £1,581,770 of GAG and other income. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Trust's primary objective of the provision of education. During the year the Trust spent a total of £1,623,229 on general running costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS deficit adjustments). A summary of the Trust's financial results are set out below:

	Restricted General Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Fixed Asset Fund	Pension Reserve	Total
Incoming Resources	1,505,694	53,955	22,121	-	1,581,770
Resources Expended	(1,539,421)	(42,223)	-	-	(1,581,644)
LGPS Charge				(89,000)	(89,000)
Depreciation			(105,766)		(105,766)
Employer contributions paid				84,000	84,000
Total Resources Expended	(1,539,421)	(42,223)	(105,766)	(5,000)	(1,692,410)
Assets Purchased from GAG	(41,585)	-	41,585		-
Actuarial Gains				177,000	177,000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(75,312)	11,732	(42,060)	172,000	66,360
Balance at 1 September 2022	106,210	307,215	3,747,412	(172,000)	3,988,837
Balance at 31 August 2023	30,898	318,947	3,705,352	-	4,055,197

Due to a change in the discount rate the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit has significantly decreased from the prior year to nil, please see note 22. While there has been a significant reduction in the opening deficit of £172,000 this does not guarantee that contribution rates will reduce and ease the cash flow effect on the Trust.

#### Reserves Policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The Trustees monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures via the monthly reports from the Business Manager. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose.

The Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £318,947. This has been built up from a mixture of locally raised income and balances transferred from the predecessor school.

The Trust's balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2023 was £349,845.

The cash balance of the Trust has been very healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £483,421. A significant proportion of this cash is held against specific projects and is not available to meet normal recurring expenditure.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### Investment Policy

Surplus cash funds are only allowed to be invested within Lloyds Bank. Funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to maximise the Trust's income with minimal risk. The Trust does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather a result of good stewardship and as and when circumstances allow.

#### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees maintain a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the risk register process is undertaken on an annual basis and the internal control systems and the exposure to said risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees at each Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meeting. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Trust at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls. SBM Services have been appointed to carry out all internal audits and report to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee with its findings.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As an academy school, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

The Trustees assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and whilst there has been a small injection of additional funding this will not be enough to counteract the rise of the minimum wage, energy price rises and any other additional costs that the Government may choose to introduce;
- failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks;
- reputational - the continuing success of the School is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed;
- local – additional houses being built nearby leading to the Academy being oversubscribed and/or being directed to take pupils as part of the Fair Access Protocol, thus putting additional strain on resources;
- safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline;
- staffing - the success of the School is reliant on the quality of its staff and the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning;
- fraud and mismanagement of funds - the Trustees have appointed SBM Services to carry out a programme of internal scrutiny which includes independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area;

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- financial instruments – the Trust only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low; and
- defined benefit pension scheme liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any school ceasing to exist the main risk to the Trust is the annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan.
- The school estate is managed by the Caretaker and overseen by the Leadership Team. Statutory testing is carried out in a timely manner and results logged on a central system, which is monitored by the link governor for health and safety. All specialist equipment is subject to service contracts and maintenance carried out where appropriate. There is also a programme in place for non-statutory testing; for example boundary checks and annual lockdown drills.  
Governors have noted that the principal risk of safe estate management is the Caretaker being absent from the academy for a prolonged period of time. To mitigate this risk the Caretaker works closely with the Business Manager and Principal to ensure they are aware of what statutory testing is required and the frequency of such tests. The Leadership Team also have access to contact details for specialist suppliers who can advise where appropriate. The Academy are also part of the Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership and have the support of other local schools site teams should the need arise.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness.

#### **Fundraising**

The Trust only held small fundraising events during the year including non-uniform/dress up days. The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or companies who carry out fundraising on its behalf. During the year no complaints or issues have arisen as a result of the fundraising events. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

#### **Plans for Future Periods**

- Develop a consistent approach to assessment across the curriculum.
- Improve persistent absence attendance to support whole school attendance.
- Improve the number of pupils at the age related standard in writing across all year groups.
- Improve outcomes for all SEND and Pupil Premium children through targeted support.

#### **Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

No funds are held by the Trust as Custodian Trustees on behalf of others.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**Auditors**

The Auditors, Price Bailey LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

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 Board of Trustees on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**C Bucknell**  
Chair

# THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Flitch Green Academy 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 Principal, 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 Flitch Green Academy 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 5 times during the year. The Board met fewer than six times during the year and is satisfied that through the use of sub-committees it maintains effective oversight of funds. Details of such sub-committees are noted below.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Burden	4	5
A Hawes	4	5
C Bucknell	3	5
C Knightley	2	5
C Fairley	4	5
E Goodings	4	5
J Scarpenter	5	5
J Shakallis	5	5
K Jordan	3	5
K Brown	3	5
K Bailey	4	5
K Banks	0	2
L Miles	4	5
S Rider	4	5
S Ash	1	1
S Hansen	0	0
T Williams	0	1
N Van Veggel	2	2

### Review of year:

For the year ended 31 August 2023 the Governing Body saw three Community Governors and four Parent Governors step down. Two Community Governors and two Parent Governors joined through the year along with a new Principal and Accounting Officer. At the end of the 2023 year the Board realised vacancies for two Parent Governors. Work to fill these vacancies will take place early in the new academic year.

The main challenge faced by the Governing Body this year was the lack of funding to support the ever increasing rise of staff salaries. In order to try and sustain the increases realised Trustees urged the leadership team to find ways to save money across day to day contracts, as well as enhancing income generation opportunities. In response to this request all contracts were scrutinised, with several going through a retender process. New contracts were entered into and a handful were ceased. Some progress related to income generation was made with the school hiring out its outside facilities to holiday sports camps.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### **Governance (continued)**

In spite of rising costs and concerns over the budget, the school has used reserves in order to fund some larger scale capital projects for the future benefits of the school and children; whilst also adding future opportunities for further income.

The Governing Body spent quality time this year ensuring the new Principal settled into their role of leading the Academy and supporting the leadership team where appropriate. This was especially evident during the summer term OFSTED inspection. Following the high turnaround of staff in the previous year, steps were taken by all leaders to enhance wellbeing and promote a positive work/life balance for all staff within the Trust. The result being that staff turnover has been greatly reduced for the 2023 year.

Another challenge that has faced the Governing Body this year was being able to set a balanced budget for the year ahead including adjusting the ever increasing staffing costs in line with the funding pledged. The Governing Body also scrutinised the three-year budget plan, which is also driving the need to enhance income generation.

The Governing Body continued to monitor and challenge the Leadership Team in all areas of the curriculum, personnel, finance and risk management. Robust management accounts were received monthly along with ongoing monitoring of the forecast outturn and changes to the risk register. The Principal provided full and detailed reports on all areas of the Academy, including the development plan and self-evaluation form, at each Governing Body meeting. Receiving reports and paperwork in good time before meetings enables Trustees enough time to read, digest and question the reports provided to them. Trustees provide ample challenge to all reports at meetings.

Trustees continued to carry out site visits to monitor key areas of academy, including the curriculum, health and safety, the single central record, safeguarding, special educational needs and pupil premium.

#### Conflicts of interest:

The Governing Body maintain an up to date, complete register of business interests for all Trustees, Members and key financial staff. There is an opportunity at each committee and full governing body meeting for Trustees to declare an interest in any agenda point. Additionally, Trustees are able to advise of any changes to Directorships and other interests at each full governing body meeting.

A complete register of Related Party Declarations is also maintained by the Governing Body, detailing potential interests of close family members. Throughout the year, all new suppliers continue to be checked against this register for any conflicts of interest.

#### Governance reviews:

In February the Governing Body carried out the annual School Resource Management Self-Assessment, which was then reviewed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. An external review of Financial Governance and administration was carried out in the spring term, which showed the board to be compliant in all areas with only minor adjustments being advised. Terms of reference are reviewed annually to ensure committees and key individuals have effective control over their delegated areas.

The external review noted that the Governing Body should update their Gifts and Hospitality Policy as well as providing a robust report on the performance of the auditors to the Members AGM. These recommendations have been noted and will be acted upon.

The Governing Body also maintains a skills audit register, which shows a good overall average of skills across the board. Details of this register are used to inform the skills required of perspective new Trustees.

The Governing Body has formally met five times during the year and is satisfied that through the use of sub-committees, it maintains effective oversight. Management accounts have been circulated monthly to the Chair of Governors and the members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The next self-evaluation will take place during the course of the upcoming academic year.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### Governance (continued)

##### Committees

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

- to ensure all funds receivable from the Secretary of State are used for the purposes prescribed by the Education Funding Agency or other appropriate Government body;
- to assist in the preparation of and approve the annual budgets for expenditure in the forthcoming financial year;
- to keep under review the Trust's actual financial performance compared with the budgeted performance and to take remedial action as necessary. Such action is to be reported to the Governing Body. In all cases liaison must be maintained with the appropriate committees;
- to make decisions as to spending within the delegated powers given to it;
- to advise the Governing Body on the appropriateness or otherwise of spending requests outside the delegated powers given to it;
- to monitor all spending within the Trust. Such monitoring will require full liaison with the appropriate committees;
- to receive reports from the Chief Financial Officer at least 6 times a year. Chair of Governors to receive monthly Management Accounts;
- to decide any matter which arises and does not fall within the remit of any other committee;
- to advise the Board of Trustees on the adequacy and effectiveness of its systems of internal control and its arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes, including controls for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money);
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on relevant reports by the National Audit Office (NAO), the Education Funding Agency or their successors and other funding bodies and, where appropriate, management's response to these reports;
- to monitor at each meeting the implementation of agreed recommendations relating to the internal audit assignment and annual reports, financial statements, Auditor's management letter and any special reports commissioned;
- to be informed of all additional services undertaken by the Internal Auditor and the external Auditor;
- to ensure all allegations of fraud and irregularity are properly followed up and to oversee the Trust's policy in this area;
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on the external Auditor's Reports and management letters and the management responses to these reports and receive the annual audited financial statement to inform that process;
- to meet with the Auditors prior to and following the annual external audit;
- review the Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation annually and report to the Governing Body for approval;
- ensure the Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation are implemented by financial staff;
- abide by the requirements and guidelines of the Local Authority and the ESFA;
- to agree and determine charges for the letting of the Academy premises including the grounds;
- make recommendations to the Governing Body for future financial planning and in doing so will need to liaise with the other committees;
- advise the Principal on matters relating to the finances of the Trust;
- to review all policies implemented by the Leadership Team in order to ensure their alignment to the Trust's strategic plans;
- to advise the Governing Body on Risk Management through familiarisation with the concept and requirements of Risk Management;
- to consider the Trust's risk appetite level and to monitor at each of its meetings, the Trust's progress against its Risk Management Action Plan and to review the Annual Risk Management Report for approval by the Governing Body;
- to review the Risk Register annually and report to the Governing Body on any changes to existing risks, impact, likelihood and mitigation;
- to identify any new (urgent or critical) risks through appropriate reporting mechanisms;
- to ensure appropriate audit work on risk management is performed;
- to collect information on risks and risk management;
- to undertake appropriate training on risk management principles and practice;

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### Governance (continued)

- to advise the Governing Body on the appointment, re-appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the Internal Auditor;
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on the scope and objectives of the work of the Internal Auditor, including audit needs assessments and strategic, annual and short-term audit plans for the Internal Auditor, including one off assignments;
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on internal audit assignment reports and on their annual report, and management's responses to these reports;
- to ensure effective co-ordination between the Internal Auditor and the external Auditor, including whether the work of the external Auditor should be relied upon for internal audit purposes or vice versa;
- to advise the Governing Body on the appointment, re-appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the external Auditor;
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on the external Auditor's Reports and management letters and the management responses to these reports and receive the annual audited financial statement to inform that process; and
- to consider and advise the Governing Body on the scope and objectives of the work of the External Auditor.

During the year the following issues were dealt with by the committee:

- Annual budgetary setting and monitoring;
- Update of Financial Regulations;
- Review of 2022 Financial Statement;
- Review of TPS EOYC;
- Review of relevant financial, audit and risk policies;
- Review of income and expenditure of additional government grants (e.g. Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, Recovery Premium and the National Tutoring Programme);
- Scrutiny of Internal Audit Reports;
- Overseeing matters arising to the property and grounds;
- Monitoring of income generation;
- Monitoring of the Risk Register; and
- Oversight of Capital Projects.

During the year the following changes to the committee took place:

Four members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee left during the year and three members were appointed.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Miles	3	3
K Brown	3	3
C Bucknell	3	3
E Goodings	3	3
S Rider	1	1
J Shakallis	3	3
T Williams	1	1
A Burden	3	3
S Hansen	0	0



## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### Review of value for money

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

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

- The Academy continue to join forces with other local schools to bulk purchase services such as, MyConcern, IGS Data Protection Service and Insight Assessment Tracking. Using the same services as other schools enables group discounts to be realised and therefore significant savings are made.
- The Academy make use of the online tools available from the Government, which allow for effective benchmarking and procurement of goods. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee review the annual Benchmarking Report Card to ensure the Academy are not significantly higher in areas of staffing to similar schools. Benchmarking is also extremely useful in looking at site costs. For example utilities, grounds maintenance and servicing of specialist equipment. The Academy do face the challenge of monopolistic companies, who are the only ones who can maintain certain elements of the building which can make achieving value for money difficult in some cases.
- Effective use of specific funds have enhanced the learning experience pupils receive at the Academy. The National Tutoring Programme Grant was used, in part, to target Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils who were struggling with their phonics knowledge. The result being a significantly high number of pupils passing their Phonics screening test in the summer term. Capital funding provided to schools has been spent on a new 'break-out' cabin, which provides a dedicated space for individual and group music lessons as well an intervention space for groups of children with additional needs. Three quotes were received for all expenditure meeting the threshold, which were appraised by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for overall cost, quality and longevity.

#### 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 Flitch Green Academy for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and financial statements.

#### 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 year 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 FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### The risk and control framework

The Academy'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
- identification and management of risks

#### Internal Scrutiny/Audit

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from SBM Services.

This option has been chosen because SBM Services offer:

- Extensive knowledge of schools and academies;
- Value for money compared to other companies contacted through the tender process
- Satisfactory reviews from other schools

The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Financial Governance
- Financial Administration
- Managing Business and Personal Interests

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis SBM Services prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of their work.

#### Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the Internal Auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external Auditors;
- correspondence from ESFA

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Review of effectiveness (continued)**

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 ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

**C Bucknell**  
Chair

**A Burden**  
Accounting Officer

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of the Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the 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 in place between the 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 Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the 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.

**A Burden**

Accounting Officer

Date: 15 December 2023

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare 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 of 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 the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**C Bucknell**  
Chair

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Flitch Green Academy (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust'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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

#### 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our Report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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 including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

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

#### Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the Directors 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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

#### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Academy Trust and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting and tax legislation and academy sector regulations including GDPR, employment law, health and safety and safeguarding.

The risks were discussed with the audit team and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

- We reviewed systems and procedures to identify potential areas of management override risk. In particular, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any large or unusual transactions to determine whether they were significant to our assessment.
- We reviewed key controls, authorisation procedures and decision making processes for any unusual or one-off transactions.
- We reviewed minutes of Trustee meetings and other relevant sub-committees of the Board and agreed the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- We have made enquiries of the Accounting Officer and senior management team to identify laws and regulations applicable to the Trust. We assessed details of any breaches where applicable in order to assess the impact upon the Trust.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.



## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

#### **Use of our Report**

This Report is made solely to the Trust'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 Trust's Members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and its Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this Report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Tom Meeks FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

#### **Price Bailey LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
Causeway House  
1 Dane Street  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 3BT

15 December 2023

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 June 2023 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 Flitch Green Academy during the year 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 Flitch Green Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Flitch Green Academy and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Flitch Green Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this Report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of The Flitch Green Academy's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Flitch Green Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 February 2011 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 year 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.

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance;
- Consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and how the Trust complies with the framework of authorities;
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the Trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity, propriety and compliance;
- Discussions with and representations from the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel;
- An extension of substantive testing from our audit of the financial statements to cover matters pertaining to regularity, in order to support the regularity conclusion, including governance, internal controls, procurement and the application of income.

#### Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 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.

Reporting Accountant  
**Price Bailey LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Date: 15 December 2023

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	1,600	30,788	22,121	54,509	39,547
Other trading activities	5	51,409	-	-	51,409	38,334
Investments	6	946	-	-	946	54
Charitable activities	4	-	1,474,906	-	1,474,906	1,326,231
<b>Total income</b>		<b>53,955</b>	<b>1,505,694</b>	<b>22,121</b>	<b>1,581,770</b>	<b>1,404,166</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	7	42,223	1,544,421	105,766	1,692,410	1,667,686
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>42,223</b>	<b>1,544,421</b>	<b>105,766</b>	<b>1,692,410</b>	<b>1,667,686</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>11,732</b>	<b>(38,727)</b>	<b>(83,645)</b>	<b>(110,640)</b>	<b>(263,520)</b>
Transfers between funds	16	-	(41,585)	41,585	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains</b>		<b>11,732</b>	<b>(80,312)</b>	<b>(42,060)</b>	<b>(110,640)</b>	<b>(263,520)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains:</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	177,000	-	177,000	1,179,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>11,732</b>	<b>96,688</b>	<b>(42,060)</b>	<b>66,360</b>	<b>915,480</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		307,215	(65,790)	3,747,412	3,988,837	3,073,357
Net movement in funds		11,732	96,688	(42,060)	66,360	915,480
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>318,947</b>	<b>30,898</b>	<b>3,705,352</b>	<b>4,055,197</b>	<b>3,988,837</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 29 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07477728**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	3,705,352	3,747,412
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	91,358	48,763
Cash at bank and in hand	20	483,421	464,005
		574,779	512,768
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(224,934)	(99,343)
<b>Net current assets</b>		349,845	413,425
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset / liability</b>		4,055,197	4,160,837
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	22	-	(172,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		4,055,197	3,988,837
<b>Funds of the Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	16	3,705,352	3,747,412
Restricted income funds	16	30,898	106,210
		3,736,250	3,853,622
Restricted funds excluding pension asset			
Pension reserve	16	-	(172,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		3,736,250	3,681,622
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	16	318,947	307,215
<b>Total funds</b>		4,055,197	3,988,837

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

The financial statements on pages 26 to 54 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf, by:

**C Bucknell**  
Chair

The notes on pages 29 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18	60,055	(26,788)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	19	(40,639)	(15,375)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		19,416	(42,163)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		464,005	506,168
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	20, 21	<u>483,421</u>	<u>464,005</u>

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### 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), judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

##### 1.2 Company status

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee. Members are named on page 1. In the event of the Academy being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member. The Academy's registered office is Tanton Road, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3GG.

##### 1.3 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 Trust 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 Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the 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.

The Academy derives the majority of its income from local and national Government grant funding which is secured for a number of years, under the terms of the Academy Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. This will ensure that the Academy can continue operating for a period of at least 12 months following the date of this Report. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Academy were not able to continue as a going concern.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.4 Income

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

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 year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Donations 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.

##### 1.5 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.

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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

##### 1.6 Interest receivable

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



## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

L/Term leasehold property	- 50 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 7 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 4 years straight line

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

##### 1.8 Taxation

The 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 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.

##### 1.9 Debtors

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

##### 1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.11 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 Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

##### 1.12 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.13 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the 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 so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the 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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the 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 operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

If pension scheme assets are more than liabilities a surplus is recognised only to the extent that the Academy is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. Any change in the restriction of the surplus is an actuarial gain or loss and is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

##### 1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, 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.

At the Balance Sheet date the pension scheme assets were more than the liabilities, resulting in a surplus. It was necessary to determine the extent to which this surplus was capable of being recovered either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. A refund is only available on ceasing to participate in the scheme, which is not practicably possible whilst the Academy continues in operation due to the requirement to provide access to the scheme to relevant employees and would not be possible if the Academy were to cease operations as these operations would be transferred to another academy trust that would take over any asset. With regard to reductions in contributions the Academy is pooled with other trusts in the setting of its contribution rates under the scheme. In addition the Academy considers there to be a minimum funding requirement in respect of its contributions. Consequently the Academy does not consider that it is able to recover the surplus through reduced contributions in the future and has therefore restricted the surplus recognised to £nil.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	1,600	30,788	-	32,388	32,633
Capital grants	-	-	22,121	22,121	6,914
	<u>1,600</u>	<u>30,788</u>	<u>22,121</u>	<u>54,509</u>	<u>39,547</u>
Total 2022	<u>550</u>	<u>32,083</u>	<u>6,914</u>	<u>39,547</u>	

In 2022, income from donations was £32,633, £550 of which was unrestricted and £32,083 was restricted.

In 2022, income from capital grants of £6,914 were in relation to restricted fixed assets.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**4. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities**

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Provision of Education</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,189,935	1,189,935	1,120,240
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Other DfE / ESFA grants	20,291	20,291	10,221
Rates Relief	9,600	9,600	8,448
UIFSM	33,656	33,656	33,684
Sports premium	18,210	18,210	18,220
Pupil premium	47,055	47,055	39,900
Supplementary grant	31,950	31,950	13,313
Mainstream schools additional grant	17,005	17,005	-
	<u>1,367,702</u>	<u>1,367,702</u>	<u>1,244,026</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local Authority grants	107,204	107,204	82,205
	<u>107,204</u>	<u>107,204</u>	<u>82,205</u>
	<u>1,474,906</u>	<u>1,474,906</u>	<u>1,326,231</u>
	<u>1,474,906</u>	<u>1,474,906</u>	<u>1,326,231</u>
	<u>1,326,231</u>	<u>1,326,231</u>	
Total 2022	<u>1,326,231</u>	<u>1,326,231</u>	

In 2022, all income from the provision of education was restricted.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Hire of facilities	4,900	4,900	6,865
Other income	46,509	46,509	31,469
	51,409	51,409	38,334
	38,334	38,334	
Total 2022	38,334	38,334	

In 2022, income from hire of facilities was £6,865, all of which was unrestricted.

In 2022, other income was £31,469, all of which unrestricted.

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	946	946	54
	54	54	
Total 2022	54	54	

In 2022, all investment income was in relation to unrestricted funds.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**7. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs	1,036,892	-	69,317	1,106,209	1,059,290
Support costs	208,307	250,365	127,529	586,201	608,396
	<u>1,245,199</u>	<u>250,365</u>	<u>196,846</u>	<u>1,692,410</u>	<u>1,667,686</u>
<b>Total 2022</b>	<u>1,262,285</u>	<u>205,347</u>	<u>200,054</u>	<u>1,667,686</u>	

In 2023, of the total expenditure, £42,223 (2022 - £30,894) was made from unrestricted funds, £1,544,421 (2022 - £1,533,029) was made from restricted funds, and £105,766 (2022 - £103,763) was made from restricted fixed asset funds.

In 2022, direct costs consisted of £998,354 staff costs and £60,936 other costs.

In 2022, support costs consisted of £263,931 staff costs, £205,347 premises costs and £139,118 other costs.

**8. Charitable Activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Direct costs	1,106,209	1,059,290
Support costs	586,201	608,396
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,692,410</u>	<u>1,667,686</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	208,307	263,931
Depreciation	105,766	103,763
Technology costs	13,078	10,185
Premises costs (excluding depreciation)	144,599	101,584
Other support costs	93,925	116,274
Governance costs	20,526	12,659
	<u>586,201</u>	<u>608,396</u>



**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**9. Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	1,376	1,376
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	105,766	103,763
Fees paid to Auditors for:		
- audit	7,130	6,200
- other services	6,575	5,720
	119,247	116,859

**10. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	888,087	831,424
Social security costs	78,207	62,418
Pension costs	203,572	307,366
	1,169,866	1,201,208
Agency staff costs	75,333	61,077
	1,245,199	1,262,285

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**10. Staff (continued)**

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	12	11
Administration and support	27	29
Management	5	4
	44	44
	44	44

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	11	9
Administration and support	12	11
Management	4	4
	27	24
	27	24

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-
	1	-
	1	-

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the 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 Trust was £323,884 (2022 - £315,997).

Included in the above are employer pension contributions of £55,618 (2022 - £54,123) and employer National Insurance Contributions of £25,990 (2022 - £26,021).

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the 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:

		2023 £	2022 £
A Burden	Remuneration	65,000 - 70,000	-
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 - 20,000	-
C Shakallis	Remuneration	-	30,000 - 35,000
	Pension contributions paid	-	5,000 - 10,000
K Jordan	Remuneration	5,000 - 10,000	5,000 - 10,000
C Farley	Remuneration	15,000 - 20,000	5,000 - 10,000
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	0 - 5,000
N Willis	Remuneration	-	40,000 - 45,000
	Pension contributions paid	-	10,000 - 15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2023, £56 was reimbursed to 1 trustee for mileage (2022 - Nil).

**12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim.

THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	4,648,682	62,017	92,338	4,803,037
Additions	57,111	6,595	-	63,706
Disposals	-	(18,870)	(10,357)	(29,227)
At 31 August 2023	<u>4,705,793</u>	<u>49,742</u>	<u>81,981</u>	<u>4,837,516</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	935,595	46,614	73,416	1,055,625
Charge for the year	92,975	5,240	7,551	105,766
On disposals	-	(18,870)	(10,357)	(29,227)
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,028,570</u>	<u>32,984</u>	<u>70,610</u>	<u>1,132,164</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,677,223</u>	<u>16,758</u>	<u>11,371</u>	<u>3,705,352</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>3,713,087</u>	<u>15,403</u>	<u>18,922</u>	<u>3,747,412</u>

14. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	121	2,417
Other debtors	39	39
Prepayments and accrued income	73,174	37,884
VAT recoverable	18,024	8,423
	<u>91,358</u>	<u>48,763</u>

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	50,129	11,362
Other taxation and social security	17,212	15,169
Other creditors	21,906	18,703
Accruals and deferred income	135,687	54,109
	224,934	99,343
	224,934	99,343
	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Deferred Income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	32,311	25,966
Resources deferred during the year	110,625	32,311
Amounts released from previous periods	(32,311)	(25,966)
	110,625	32,311
	110,625	32,311

Balances in deferred income relate to funding received in advance of the 2023/24 financial year from the ESFA and Essex County Council.

THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	307,215	53,955	(42,223)	-	-	318,947
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	106,210	1,189,935	(1,235,379)	(41,585)	-	19,181
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	177,767	(166,050)	-	-	11,717
Restricted donations	-	30,788	(30,788)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	107,204	(107,204)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(172,000)	-	(5,000)	-	177,000	-
	(65,790)	1,505,694	(1,544,421)	(41,585)	177,000	30,898
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted fixed asset funds	3,747,412	-	(105,766)	63,706	-	3,705,352
DfE / ESFA capital grants	-	22,121	-	(22,121)	-	-
	3,747,412	22,121	(105,766)	41,585	-	3,705,352
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	3,681,622	1,527,815	(1,650,187)	-	177,000	3,736,250
<b>Total funds</b>	3,988,837	1,581,770	(1,692,410)	-	177,000	4,055,197

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 16. Statement of funds (continued)

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

##### **Unrestricted funds**

This represents income received that does not have restrictions.

##### **General Annual Grant**

This represents funding from the ESFA to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

##### **Other DfE and ESFA Grants**

This fund has also arisen from funding received from the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the furtherance of the Trust's activities that are not funded through the General Annual Grant.

##### **Other Government grants**

This represents various small grants from local and national Government bodies for the provision of specific services to pupils of the Academy.

##### **Restricted donations**

This represents donations received by the Trust which have restrictions on what they can be used for applied to them.

##### **Pension reserve**

This reserve represents the Trust's share of the valuation on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

##### **Restricted fixed asset funds**

Restricted fixed asset funds represent resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the DfE/ESFA.

The transfer between funds represents the net adjustment for additions of fixed assets purchased using GAG funding.

##### **DfE/ESFA Capital Grants**

This represents funding received from the ESFA specifically for the maintenance and improvement of the Trust's buildings and facilities.

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**16. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	299,171	38,938	(30,894)	-	-	307,215
	<u>299,171</u>	<u>38,938</u>	<u>(30,894)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>307,215</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	134,797	1,120,240	(1,135,663)	(13,164)	-	106,210
Other DfE / ESFA grants	18,292	123,786	(142,078)	-	-	-
Restricted donations	-	32,083	(32,083)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	82,205	(82,205)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,210,000)	-	(141,000)	-	1,179,000	(172,000)
	<u>(1,056,911)</u>	<u>1,358,314</u>	<u>(1,533,029)</u>	<u>(13,164)</u>	<u>1,179,000</u>	<u>(65,790)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted fixed asset funds	3,828,832	-	(103,763)	22,343	-	3,747,412
DfE / ESFA capital grants	2,265	6,914	-	(9,179)	-	-
	<u>3,831,097</u>	<u>6,914</u>	<u>(103,763)</u>	<u>13,164</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,747,412</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>2,774,186</u>	<u>1,365,228</u>	<u>(1,636,792)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,179,000</u>	<u>3,681,622</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>3,073,357</u></u>	<u><u>1,404,166</u></u>	<u><u>(1,667,686)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,179,000</u></u>	<u><u>3,988,837</u></u>



THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,705,352	3,705,352
Current assets	318,947	255,832	-	574,779
Creditors due within one year	-	(224,934)	-	(224,934)
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,947</b>	<b>30,898</b>	<b>3,705,352</b>	<b>4,055,197</b>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,747,412	3,747,412
Current assets	307,215	205,553	-	512,768
Creditors due within one year	-	(99,343)	-	(99,343)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(172,000)	-	(172,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,215</b>	<b>(65,790)</b>	<b>3,747,412</b>	<b>3,988,837</b>

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**18. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(110,640)	(263,520)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	105,766	103,763
Interest receivable	(946)	(54)
Increase in debtors	(42,595)	(11,654)
Increase in creditors	125,591	10,591
Pension adjustments	5,000	141,000
Capital grants from DfE Group	(22,121)	(6,914)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>60,055</b>	<b>(26,788)</b>

**19. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	946	54
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(63,706)	(22,343)
Capital grants from DfE Group	22,121	6,914
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(40,639)</b>	<b>(15,375)</b>

**20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	483,421	464,005
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>483,421</b>	<b>464,005</b>

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	464,005	19,416	483,421
	<u>464,005</u>	<u>19,416</u>	<u>483,421</u>

#### 22. Pension commitments

The 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 Essex 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 £21,906 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £18,703) 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 full-time 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.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 22. Pension commitments (continued)

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £120,377 (2022 - £108,821).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The 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 £105,000 (2022 - £94,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £84,000 (2022 - £75,000) and employees' contributions totalled £21,000 (2022 - £19,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

The LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**22. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.25	4.20

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
Males	20.7	21.0
Females	23.2	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.0	22.3
Females	24.6	24.9

As at 31 August 2023 the Trust had a defined benefit pension obligation of £891,000 (2022 - £1,042,000). The sensitivity analysis detailed below would increase/(decrease) the closing defined benefit obligation in the following way:

**Sensitivity analysis**

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(24)	(33)
Discount rate -0.1%	24	34
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	24	29
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(23)	(28)
CPI rate +0.1%	24	32
CPI rate -0.1%	(23)	(31)

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**22. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Share of scheme assets**

The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	561,000	489,000
Gilts	12,000	17,000
Corporate bonds	-	39,000
Property	75,000	82,000
Cash and other liquid assets	28,000	26,000
Alternative assets	152,000	130,000
Other managed funds	134,000	87,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>962,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>

The scheme's assets are valued at £962,000, due to this resulting in assets exceeding liabilities a surplus exists. The surplus has been capped by an asset ceiling calculated by the actuary based on application of the scheme rules which state the trust only has a limited entitlement to future economic benefit resulting from this actuarial valuation. The value of this is £71,000 which has restricted the value of assets recognised in the accounts to £891,000.

The actual return on scheme assets was £42,000 (2022 - £1,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	83,000	196,000
Interest income	(39,000)	(14,000)
Interest cost	44,000	34,000
Administrative expenses	1,000	-
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>216,000</b>

**THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**22. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	1,042,000	1,987,000
Interest cost	44,000	34,000
Employee contributions	21,000	19,000
Actuarial gains	(290,000)	(1,192,000)
Benefits paid	(9,000)	(2,000)
Current service cost	83,000	196,000
	891,000	1,042,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	891,000	1,042,000

Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	870,000	777,000
Admin expenses	(1,000)	-
Interest income	39,000	14,000
Actuarial losses	(113,000)	(13,000)
Employer contributions	84,000	75,000
Employee contributions	21,000	19,000
Benefits paid	(9,000)	(2,000)
	891,000	870,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	891,000	870,000

**23. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2023 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within 1 year	344	344
	344	344

**24. Members' liability**

Each Member of the Charitable Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while 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 cease to be a Member.

## THE FLITCH GREEN ACADEMY

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 25. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

During the year, donations received from Friends of Flitch Green, a charity which is a related party through multiple Trustees, totalled £7,011 (2022 - £4,000).

No other related party transactions took place (2022 - £NIL) in the period of the account, other than the Trustees remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.