

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(Formerly Park Hall Junior Academy)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration Number:
07848445 (England and Wales)

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)**

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Reference and Administrative Details

Members

Mrs J Hayre
Mr A Clewes
Mr J Knight
Mr A Singh
Mr H Bhachu (appointed 1 October 2022)
Mr T Neal (retired 30 September 2022)
Mr G Deakin (retired 30 September 2022)

Trustees

Mrs D Hendon * (Chair)	Members
Mr A Clewes *	Members
Mr G Deakin *	Members
Mr T Neal *	Members
Mrs S Ali *	Members
Mrs E Suddle (resigned 20 September 2023)	Members
Mrs N Khan * (appointed 1 October 2022)	Members
Mrs R Rai (appointed 1 October 2022)	Members
Mrs J Sembhi (appointed 1 October 2022) (resigned 20 September 2023)	Members
Mrs K Balfour (appointed 17 May 2023)	Trustees
Mrs J Roberts (appointed 20 September 2023)	Trustees
Mr A Ravat (retired 30 September 2022)	Community
Mrs K Balfour (retired 30 September 2022)	Community
Mr J Knight (retired 30 September 2022)	Community
Mrs J Roberts (retired 30 September 2022)	Community
Mrs A Arshad (retired 30 September 2022)	Community
Mrs S Akhtar (retired 30 September 2022)	Parent
Mr SKF Ali (resigned 30 September 2022)	Parent
Mrs D Rai (retired 30 September 2022)	Parent
Mrs M Thakur (retired 30 September 2022)	Parent
Mrs R Rai (retired 30 September 2022)	Staff Governor
Mr J Hale (retired 30 September 2022)	Staff Governor
Mrs G Healy (retired 30 September 2022)	Ex-Officio

* Members of the Finance and Audit Committee

Company Secretary

Mrs C J Gilbert

Executive Leadership Team:

Executive Head Teacher / CEO	Mrs G Healy
Chief Financial Officer/ Finance Director	Mrs C J Gilbert
Head of School - PHJA	Mrs L Amos
Head of School – PHIA	Mrs S Hand
Head of School – PHJA (resigned 31 August 2023)	Mr J Hale

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Company Name	The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
Change of name on 15 September 2022	formerly Park Hall Junior Academy
Principal and Registered Office	Park Hall Road Walsall West Midlands WS5 3HF
Company Registration Number	07848445 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc Branch – The Bridge, Walsall P O Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
Solicitors	VWV Narrow Quay House Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The multi academy trust operates 2 primary academies serving the Walsall area.

- Park Hall Infant Academy
- Park Hall Junior Academy

They have combined pupil capacity of 678 plus a 52 place nursery, and had a roll of 736 in the school census on 5 October 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The multi academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the multi academy trust

The Trustees of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The multi academy trust has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA'), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Members, Trustees from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on multi academy trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000

Method of Recruitment and Appointment of Trustee

The board of trustees of The Loriners MAT comprises three categories of trustees, as set out in the Articles of Association and the Funding Agreement.

Up to 9 Trustees, appointed by the Members.

The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees.

Co-opted trustees may be appointed by the board of trustees provided that the person who is appointed as a co-opted trustee is:

- a person who lives or works in the community served by the multi academy trust; or
- a person who, in the opinion of the board of trustees, is committed to the government and success of the multi academy trust.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The Executive Head Teacher (CEO) may agree to be a Trustee and if so is appointed by the Members.

Each academy has a Local Governing Board, which must include a minimum of 2 elected Parent Governors.

Parent Governors are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the multi academy. A parent governor must be a parent of a pupil at the multi academy at the time when she/he is elected.

Trustees are appointed for a 4-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Executive Head Teacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the board of trustees will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure the board of trustees has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy Trust's ongoing development

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustee

Many of the current Trustees / Local Governing Board members have considerable experience.

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend upon their existing experience. All Trustees are signposted to details of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All newly appointed and elected Trustees are invited to observe the working of all sub-committees before deciding which committee they could best serve.

All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governor Association training and all Trustees receive regular National Governor Association updates. As there are normally only a few new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. The Academy purchases training from an independent governor support service to complement the in-house induction and training programme.

A bespoke governance development programme is operated throughout the year which allows trustees to meet informally as a team for training, so as to keep the trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities, and to contribute to the strategic leadership and direction of the multi academy trust.

Organisational Structure

The board of trustees is responsible for all major decisions about the Academy.

The board of trustees is responsible for setting all policies covering Personnel, Health & Safety, Curriculum and Financial aspects of the work of the multi academy trust, including the School Development Plan and the budget.

The board of trustees approves the Statutory Accounts and monitors the work of the multi academy trust. It receives regular reports, including budget and other data updates, from the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

The board of trustees normally meet 6 times each year. The board of trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the multi academy trust, and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees of the board of trustees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each committee. The board of trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The work of the board of trustees is delegated to sub-committees that are formally constituted with terms of reference that detail the responsibilities discharged to each committee, namely:

- Finance, Audit and Risk
- Curriculum and Standards
- Personnel
- Premises and Health and Safety

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

These sub-committees normally meet at least termly and the Chairs of these committees report back to the board of trustees' meetings.

The following sub-committees meet as necessary

- Admissions
- Pupil Discipline
- Staff
- Pay Committee
- Staff Appeals

The following decisions are reserved to the full board of trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the multi academy trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair;
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Executive Head Teacher.

The trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the multi academy trust to the Executive Leadership Team ('ELT'), which is led by the Executive Head Teacher. The ELT comprises the Executive Head Teacher, the Chief Financial Officer and the Head(s) of School(s). The Executive Head Teacher is the multi academy trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of multi academy trust. The ELT implements the policies laid down by the trustees and reports back to them on performance.

Following the Performance Management process of all staff the initial School Development Plan is drawn up by the Executive Head Teacher working with the ELT. The draft plan is reviewed by sub-committees before being approved by the full trust board.

A high percentage of the multi academy trust's expenditure relates to staffing. The staffing structure is determined by the trust board working with the Executive Head Teacher. The improvement plan and the staffing structure then influence the multi academy trust budget. Sub-committees review the progress of the plan as part of their regular work.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Executive Leadership Team to comprise the key management personnel of the multi academy trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the multi academy trust on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those trustees who are also employees of the trust. Details of trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 10 of the financial statements.

The pay of the Executive Head Teacher is reviewed annually by the Pay Committee based on the annual performance management process for the Executive Head Teacher and in line with the multi academy trust Pay policy, which includes a set point scale for the role.

The pay of the other members of the Executive Leadership Team is also reviewed annually by the Pay Committee in line with the multi academy trust pay policy and by reference to published national pay scales and the annual performance management process adopted by the multi academy trust.

The range of pay scales for the Executive Leadership Team, appropriate to roles and responsibilities, was set with reference to extensive external scrutiny through a benchmarking report conducted by Browne Jacobson, solicitors. Pay Committee review the staffing structure, for the multi academy trust, annually. Progression through the pay range is dependent upon successful performance management reviews.

For the Executive Head Teacher an external adviser supports the trust board through the process.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Loriners MAT. There are no sponsors.

Engagement with Employees (including Disabled Persons)

The multi academy trust is not required to report on Engagement with Employees.

Engagement with Suppliers, Customers and Others in Business Relationship with the Trust

The multi academy trust is not required to report on Engagement with Suppliers, Customers and Others in Business Relationship with the Trust.

Trade Union Facility time

The multi academy trust is not required to report on Trade Union facility time.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The strategic goal of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils in accordance with the funding agreement between the multi academy trust and the Department for Education.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has adopted a Funding Agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things:

- that the school has a curriculum satisfying the requirements of section 78 of EA 2002 (balanced and broadly based curriculum);
- that it provides education for pupils of different abilities; and
- that it provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The strategic aims of the academy trust are -

To provide high quality education provision for all schools within The Loriners Multi Academy Trust.

This will be achieved by providing appropriate and proportionate support and challenge to each school within the trust.

There will be a focus on -

- Establish and monitoring a system of governance through effective sub-committees.
- Developing monitoring and evaluating strategies and procedures that will drive school improvement.
- Supporting the procurement of best value central services.
- Collaboratively sharing and supporting best practice.

The main objectives for the year are –

- Encourage and inspire all pupils to achieve their true potential academically, socially, emotionally and physically through effective inclusive practice.
- Open minds through the delivery of a fit for purpose curriculum, encouraging resilient, independent, self-motivated and active learners.
- Develop and embed a sequentially cohesive and consistent curriculum building on early years foundation skills to end of KS2.
- Support teachers and learning support staff with high quality continuous professional development, with a particular focus on learning pedagogy and behaviours.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The strategies adopted for achieving these objectives are to -

- Align the curriculum to ensure the development of knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare pupils for the next phase of their learning and beyond.
- Ensure that the quality of planning is consistently applied across the MAT through aligned subject policies.
- Develop Subject Leaders ability to intensely challenge and support the delivery of consistently high quality knowledge to embed understanding for all learners.
- Support teachers and learning support staff with high quality continuous professional development, with a particular focus on learning pedagogy.
- Monitor more closely the impact of learning support staff on the progress of our disadvantaged and identified vulnerable groups and build on successful practice consequently further improving the progress outcomes for these pupils.
- Maintain and improve the progress made for all pupils, building on from their attainment on entry, in all core areas.
- Continue to monitor the impact of recently implemented learning schemes across the MAT.
- Accelerate the rates of progress for all pupils and particularly for high prior attainers, by further developing the taught curriculum to reflect identified gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Trust aims to advance, for the public benefit, education in the Walsall and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust is an equal opportunity employer, and strives to give full and fair consideration to all applicants for employment, training and promotions irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour or sexual orientation.

Strategic Report

Achievement and Performance

The Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment.

Trustees acknowledge the achievement and performance of all children across both academies, recognising that these results would not be possible without the continued hard work and dedication of all staff at the Academy.

Ofsted Action Plan – Park Hall Infant Academy

Park Hall Infant Academy received a graded Section 5 Ofsted Inspection on 1st and 2nd November 2022. This was the first on-site inspection of the academy since February 2008. The academy was inspected following the removal of the exemption to inspection for 'outstanding providers'.

We are delighted that overall the academy was deemed to be a 'good provider' and the report highlighted the many strengths of the school. Outcomes at the end of KS1 continue to be above local and national comparators and pupils make good progress and are ready for transition to the next stage of their learning.

Whilst the outcome of 'requires improvement' for the Early Years Foundation Stage was very disappointing, the academy have rapidly identified immediate actions for improvement that have been implemented and continue to be embedded.

A fit for purpose EYFS curriculum, that successfully challenges and engages pupils, and that develops their vocabulary was introduced and embedded to take account of the 7 areas of the curriculum. In addition, the action plan provided enhanced opportunities for child initiated activities through the selection and purchase of improved resources.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

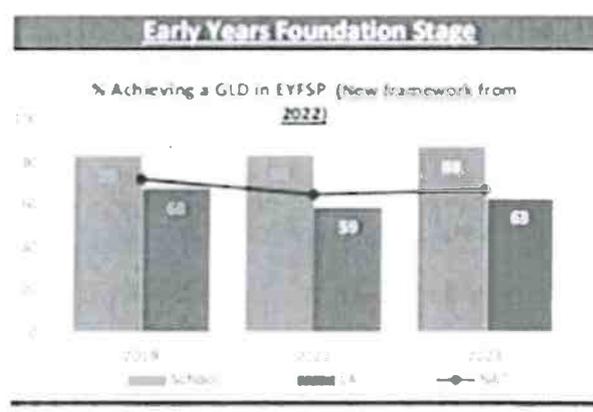
This included the re-introduction of the phonics scheme which, whilst in place, was not fully adhered to at all times. Fidelity to the scheme identified for use to introduce and embed phonics (Read Write Inc) was strengthened. All staff were re-trained and a full reading scheme was resourced to support this.

An interim visit from a Local Authority EYFS specialist was very positive and quality assured all action planning proposed. Trustees have been encouraged at the rate of progress to action plan targets, reported to them across all committees. We are confident that the provision continues to improve and that future inspections will reflect this.

Early Years / Foundation Stage Results

All core areas resulted in outcomes at 'above national' and local levels.

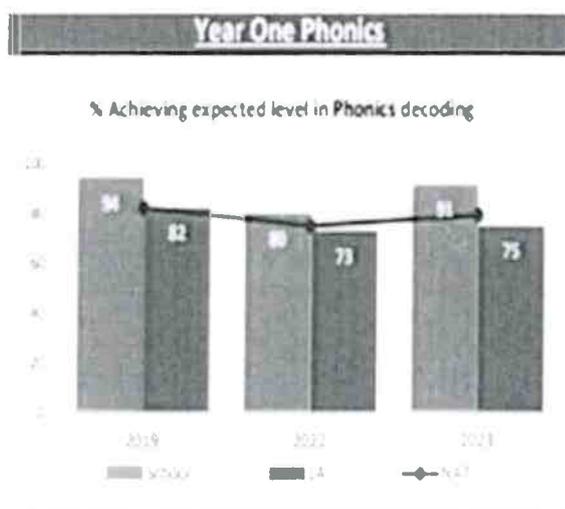
	2019	2022	2023
PHIA	83%	84%	88%
Walsall	68%	59%	63%
National	81%	78%	80%



Year 1 Phonics Screen Results

All core areas resulted in outcomes at 'above national' and local levels.

	2019	2022	2023
PHIA	94%	81%	92%
Walsall	82%	73%	75%
National	82%	75%	90%



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 Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

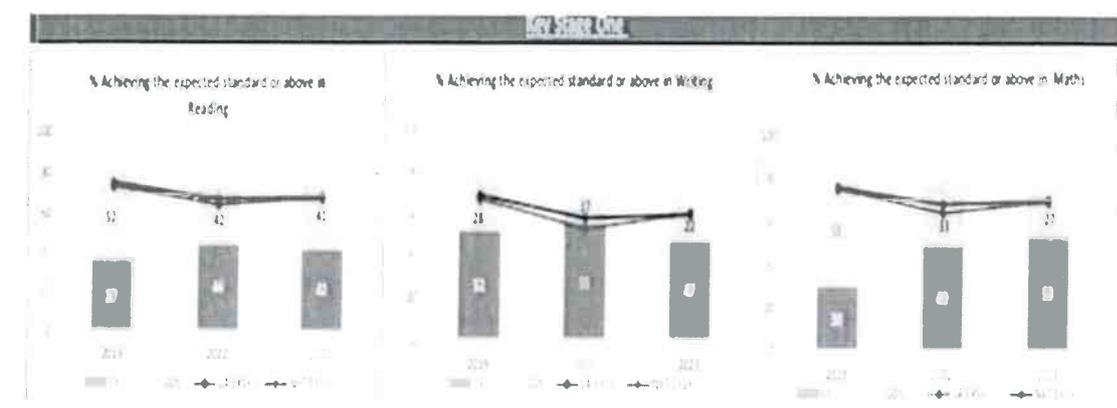
End of Key Stage 1 Results

All core areas resulted in outcomes at 'above national' and local levels.

Reading				
	PKS	WTS	EXS	GDS
Year 2	1%	16%	42%	41%
Combined	Below 17%		Expected+ 83%	

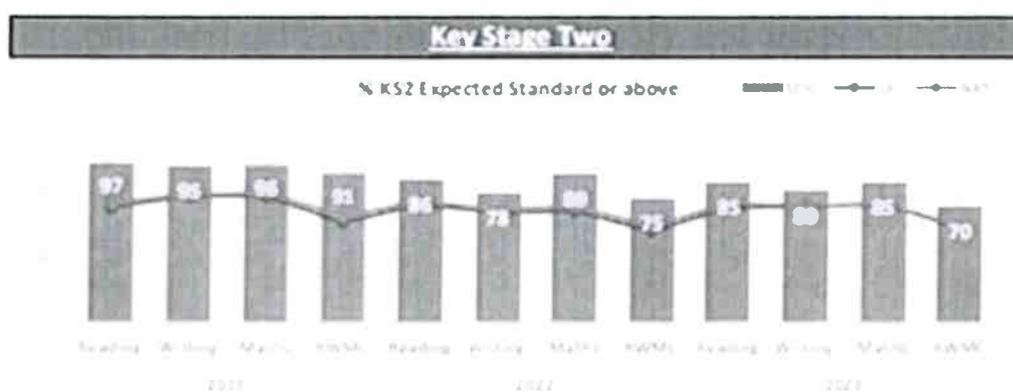
Writing				
	PKS	WTS	EXS	GDS
Year 2	1%	30%	47%	22%
Combined	Below 31%		Expected+ 69%	

Maths				
	PKS	WTS	EXS	GDS
Year 2	1%	19%	53%	27%
Combined	Below 20%		Expected+ 80%	



End of Key Stage 2 SATs 2023

Outcomes at the end of KS2 continue to be above local and national comparators and pupils make good progress and are ready for transition to the next stage of their learning.



Key Stage 2 Results – 2023 (Unvalidated)	Park Hall Junior Academy Teacher Assessment	Park Hall Junior Academy SATs Unvalidated	National 2023 Provisional
Reading - % pupils attaining at <i>Expected Standard</i>		85%	73%
Writing - % pupils attaining at <i>Expected Standard</i>	80%		71%
Maths - % pupils attaining at <i>Expected Standard</i>		85%	73%
Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation - % pupils attaining at <i>Expected Standard</i>		93%	72%

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Reading - % pupils achieving a <i>high score</i>		35%	29%
Writing - % pupils attaining at <i>greater depth standard</i>	15%		13%
Maths - % pupils achieving a <i>high score</i>		44%	25%
Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation - % pupils achieving a <i>high score</i>		62%	31%
Attainment - Reading / Writing / Maths Combined			
% pupils attaining at <i>Expected Standard</i>		70%	59%

Average Scaled Score			
Reading		108	105
Writing	102		102
Maths		108	104
Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation		111	105

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees 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.

Promoting the Success of the Academy Trust

The academy is not required to report on Promoting the Success of the Academy Trust.

Financial Review

The financial results of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust are detailed in the following pages. It is considered that the finances are sound and well established. The principal financial management policies adopted are laid down by the Academy Trust Handbook published by the ESFA and requirements as laid down by the Trust's Financial Handbook.

The main sources of income for the Trust are grants from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the trust's total income excluding capital grants and transfers in from Park Hall Infant Academy, was £3,719,568 (2022: £1,977,508) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £3,518,703 (2022: £1,827,905), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £200,865 (2022: £99,603).

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £4,869,912 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the multi academy trust.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the year included the Financial Procedures Policies and Manual, which lays out the framework for the trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the board of trustees, Executive Head Teacher, Executive Leadership Team and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees feel it is important that funding received during a financial year is spent for the benefit of the pupils on roll at that time, whilst recognising the need for prudent accounting.

It is the board of trustees' general policy to continue to maintain reserves which can be used for future educational purposes.

The multi academy trust had total funds at 31 August 2023 of £5,706,013 which included £979,101 restricted funds not available for general purposes of the multi academy trust, £526,196 of free reserves defined as unrestricted funds available for general purposes and £4,869,912 which can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds was a deficit of £143,000.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance of £143,000. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves in any one year should be approximately £250,000. £150,000 of this is treated as an in year contingency to meet costs such as maternity cover, redundancy and legal fees and any remaining in year contingency funds are released at year-end to develop resources. The year-end reserve should provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants, in particular to meet newly identified High Need pupils, and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent unforeseen maintenance.

Although the current level of operating reserves is above the target level identified above, the trustees expectation is that these reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing development of the multi academy trust, including the need to retain key staff in light of the increasing cost pressures in future years.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature of funding, the trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short-term requirements. The trust holds surplus cash balances on short or fixed term deposit with Lloyds Bank. There are no other investments held by the trust.

These investments are carried out in accordance with the powers vested in the board of trustees.

Plans for Future Periods

Development of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust

We aim to build a strong trust, the key priorities for which are to -

- Develop sufficient capacity to support and challenge both good schools and those requiring further improvement through a structured cycle of support.
- Develop and increase the capacity of our central team to support the growth of the trust.
- Align the policies outside of the curriculum across the MAT.

Estates Plan

Estates work during the coming year will focus on developing a rolling refurbishment programme to ensure that our learning environments are fit for purpose and conducive to learning. Estates work during the year will also focus on embedding improved health and safety policies and procedures.

Succession Planning

We accept the inevitability of change and seek to shape the succession planning for the future development of the MAT through –

- Evaluation of our teams and act on our findings to meet the challenge of our growing trust.
- Forward planning and looking after the professional development of leaders and staff
- Embedding this as a positive element of our workforce management as it encourages professional development at every level and ensures that leadership can remain energised, focused on school improvement priorities and future-proofing.
- Identifying key critical and vulnerable positions, including trustees and governance roles.
- Creating opportunities for potential successors within the leadership structure.

Effective succession planning will ensure we mitigate against vulnerability and sustain high-quality professional leadership going forward.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have considered the major risks and uncertainties facing the charitable company, which include changes in legislation and regulations and have put in place procedures to deal with these matters.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The trustees are constantly looking for risk triggers. They have prepared a Risk Register and agreed a risk management strategy. These are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and will be formally reviewed annually.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the operational areas of the site and facilities, the reputation of the schools within the trust, the standard of teaching and the finances. The trustees have implemented a system to assess risks that the schools face, especially in the operational areas which includes safeguarding, teaching and health and safety and in relation to the control of finance.

The trustees have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The principal financial risk facing the trust is that funding is dependent upon pupil numbers. Historically the schools within the trust are oversubscribed and continues to be so. Pupil numbers may also be affected by the reputation of the school. However as schools within the trust have been consistently rated as 'good providers' by Ofsted, trustees do not consider this to be a high risk.

The trustees review the financial health of the trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and receiving update reports from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. This Committee also review the financial performance and position of the trust every term, reviewing the latest management accounts and reports from the Chief Financial Officer, while the Chair of Trustees also receives and reviews the monthly management accounts.

In the year, approximately 96% of the trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light continuing changes in to the National Funding Formula for schools. The impact, on the trust, of changes in Schools' Funding, will be assessed accordingly.

The success of the trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff.

A significant proportion of the trust's expenditure is on staffing. The salary scales for Teaching Staff and Support Staff and the related on-costs are determined by external bodies. The impact, on the trust, of changes in staffing costs, will be assessed and managed accordingly.

The trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

The trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risk from the potential failure to effectively manage the trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation and statutory returns. The trustees also review the controls in place to mitigate the risk from fraud and mismanagement of funds.

The Academy Trust has engaged MLG Education Services Ltd as responsible officer to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire and health and safety, which includes consideration of those risks impacting on trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The Local Government Pension Scheme, a defined benefit scheme, is currently in deficit. The on-going contributions required, determined following a recent actuarial valuation, are considered to be manageable and within the Academy's current budget.

Fund Raising

The trust does not engage Professional Fund raisers.

The children and staff have continued to take part in raising funds for national and local Charities through occasional days. These are optional activities that the vast majority of children and staff choose to participate in.

Fundraising is undertaken in line with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and is monitored by Senior Leadership Team of the schools within the trust.

The trust is mindful of the requirement to protect the public, particularly vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches for undue pressure to donate. No complaints have been received in respect of fundraising activities; the general complaints policy of the trust would be applicable if so.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

The trust and its trustees do not act as custodian trustees of any other charity.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- 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 auditors, Feltons, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18 December 2023 signed on the board's behalf by:

.....


Mrs D Hendon

Chair of Trustee

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2023

Scope of Responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE’s Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Head Teacher 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 Loriners Multi Academy Trust 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 information that is described in the Trustees’ Report and in the Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year ended 31 August 2023. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs D Hendon (Chair)	6	6
Mr G Deakin	5	6
Mr A Clewes	6	6
Mr T Neal	3	6
Mrs R Rai	4	6
Mrs S Ali	4	6
Mrs N Khan	4	6
Mrs J Sembhi (resigned 20 September 2023)	6	6
Mrs E Suddle (resigned 20 September 2023)	0	6
Mrs K Balfour (appointed 17 May 2023)	0	2
Mrs J Roberts (appointed 20 September 2023)	0	0

The board of trustees reviewed the trust’s governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The board of trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the trust and are satisfied that the current structure in place is appropriate and effective for the trust.

The Finance Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the board of trustees, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the board of trustees’ responsibility to ensure sound management of the trusts’ finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. This committee also acts as the trust’s audit committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the trust’s governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. The committee benefits from having a Chair and another member who are qualified accountants.

The Finance Audit and Risk Committee met 5 times during this academic year, to receive and discuss the Financial Summaries to date and receive verbal reports on the internal scrutiny work conducted by MLG Education Services Ltd.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs N Khan (Chair)	5	5
Mrs D Hendon	3	5
Mr G Deakin	5	5
Mr A Clewes	5	5
Mrs S Ali	2	5
Mr T Neal	0	0

The other key issue dealt with by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during the year was the review of the trust's three year financial forecasts and the actions required to address the reducing reserves over this period.

Conflicts of interest

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust requests that all trustees, local governing boards' representatives and all staff complete a declaration of interest form annually. Trustees and ELT refer to the register of interests when making financial decisions. All trustees are required to disclose at all meetings any possible conflicts of interest and are not permitted to take part in any related discussions and decisions made.

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of bench marking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the trust has delivered improved value for money during the year through:

- The trust has invested in LED lighting throughout Park Hall Junior Academy. It has invested in replacement windows at Park Hall Infant and Park Hall Junior academies. These building improvements should result in energy efficiencies in future years;
- The trust used a customer service-company specialising in energy procurement before entering into new contracts for gas and electricity.
- The trust used the Department for Education's framework, when procuring IT, hardware and licences.
- The trust annually reviews the staffing structure and the deployment of education support staff to drive and support curriculum initiatives and improvement plan in line with the needs of the current cohorts of children.
- Under the new structure of a Multi Academy Trust, The Loriners MAT are achieving better value for money and improved economies of scale.

Trustees place considerable importance on ensuring that the trusts estate is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations.

The trust buys in the support of a Health and Safety consultant and completes any resulting action plans. The consultant has also confirmed that the trust complies with all statutory testing requirements. The trust commissioned a RAAC survey during the year and following an extensive survey was reassured that no RAAC was present in our buildings.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

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 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 Loriners Multi Academy trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed MLG Education Services Ltd to perform additional checks.

The role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the period include:

- review of and testing of income recognition and recording systems and procedures
- review of and testing of payroll systems and procedures
- review of and testing of procurement systems and procedures
- review of and testing of bank control procedures
- review of compliance with the Academies Trust's Handbook 2022
- review of the academy's website
- review of management information preparation procedures, including information prepared for and presented to the board of trustees
- review of the academy's estate management.

MLG Education Services Ltd reports to the board of trustees, through the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

responsibilities. No material control issues have been brought to the attention of the Trustees arising as a result of their work.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer the Executive Head Teacher 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 external auditor, Feltons;
- the work of MLG Education Services Ltd;
- the Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment Process, including the School Resource Management Self- Assessment Tool;
- the work of the Chief Financial Officer who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs D Hendon
Chair of Trustees



Mrs G Healy
Accounting Officer

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust

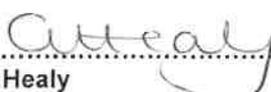
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance for the year ended 31 August 2023

As accounting officer of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the multi academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the multi academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the multi academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the multi academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the multi academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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


.....
Mrs G Healy

Accounting Officer

18 December 2023

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

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 in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mrs D Hendon

Chair of Trustees

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of
The Loriners Multi Academy Trust**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Loriners MAT (the 'multi academy trust') for the year to 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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 multi academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the multi academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the multi academy 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 Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Loriners Multi
Academy Trust
(continued)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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 matter 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 (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Multi Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' 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
- 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.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(continued)**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page 22], the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

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 reviewed the multi academy trust's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the multi academy trust's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Loriners Multi
Academy Trust
(continued)**

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

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the multi academy 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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the multi academy trust and the multi academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor
8 Sovereign Court
8 Graham Street
Birmingham B1 3JR

18 December 2023

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Loriners MAT and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 June 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Loriners MAT 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 Loriners MAT and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Loriners MAT 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 Loriners MAT and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Loriners MAT's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Loriners MAT's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 September 2010 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.

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 work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes :

- Consideration of the applicable legislation and the multi academy trust's funding agreement
- Review and evaluation of the Multi Academy Trust's system of internal controls
- Examination and assessment of the Accounting Officer's statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
- Examination, on a test basis, of third party evidence supporting income and expenditure
- Review of exceptional and unusual items

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Loriners MAT and the
Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)**

Conclusion

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



David W Farnsworth FCA (Reporting Accountant)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

18 December 2023

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2023
(including income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2022/23 £	Total 2021/22 £
Income from :							
Donations and capital grants							
Transfers of existing academies	2, 28	200,653	(482,000)	176,275	1,748,789	1,643,717	-
Other donations and capital grants	2	-	-	-	136,113	136,113	8,601
Charitable activities :							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	134,012	-	3,572,638	-	3,706,650	1,973,677
Other trading activities	4	2,562	-	-	-	2,562	3,636
Investments	5	10,356	-	-	-	10,356	-195
Total		347,583	(482,000)	3,748,913	1,884,902	5,499,398	1,986,109
Expenditure on :							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	6	105,945	67,000	3,412,758	205,991	3,791,694	2,184,289
Total		105,945	67,000	3,412,758	205,991	3,791,694	2,184,289
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		241,638	(549,000)	336,155	1,678,911	1,707,704	(198,180)
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	(67,057)	67,057	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		241,638	(549,000)	269,098	1,745,968	1,707,704	(198,180)
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15, 25	-	666,000	-	-	666,000	1,651,000
Net movement in funds		241,638	117,000	269,098	1,745,968	2,373,704	1,452,820
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	16	284,558	(260,000)	183,807	3,123,944	3,332,309	1,879,489
Total funds carried forward		526,196	(143,000)	452,905	4,869,912	5,706,013	3,332,309

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the multi academy trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Company number : 07848445
Balance sheet as at 31 August 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		4,869,912		3,104,718
Current assets					
Debtors	13	112,048		72,634	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,276,988</u>		<u>560,050</u>	
		1,389,036		632,684	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>409,935</u>		<u>145,093</u>	
Net current assets			979,101		487,591
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>5,849,013</u>		<u>3,592,309</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25		(143,000)		(260,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>5,706,013</u></u>		<u><u>3,332,309</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust :					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	4,869,912		3,123,944	
Restricted income fund	15	452,905		183,807	
Pension reserve	15	<u>(143,000)</u>		<u>(260,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			5,179,817		3,047,751
Unrestricted income funds	15		526,196		284,558
Total funds			<u><u>5,706,013</u></u>		<u><u>3,332,309</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 29 to 52 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....  Mrs D Hendon - Chair of Trustees

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	229,675	111,566
Cash transferred in from existing academy	28	565,691	-
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(75,928)	836
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(2,500)	-
		<u>716,938</u>	<u>112,402</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		560,050	447,648
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	22	<u>1,276,988</u>	<u>560,050</u>

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the multi academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the year 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**

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.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the multi academy trust has provided the goods or services.
- **Donated goods, facilities and services**
Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.
- **Donated fixed assets**
Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the multi academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
This includes all expenditure incurred by the multi academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.
- **Charitable activities**
These are costs incurred on the multi academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the multi academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 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.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

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 over its expected useful life as follows:

Long leasehold buildings	- straight line over 25 years and 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10% to 20% straight line
Computer hardware	- 25% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% straight line

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

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

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered.

1.7 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.

1.8 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined by FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows :

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

1.10 Leased assets

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

1.11 Taxation

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

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

1.12 Pension benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary 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 Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pension benefits (continued)

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

1.13 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the multi academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	136,113	136,113	8,601
	-	-	136,113	136,113	8,601
Transfers of existing academies	200,653	(305,725)	1,748,789	1,643,717	-
	200,653	(305,725)	1,884,902	1,779,830	8,601
Analysis of restricted funds transferred into trust :					
Restricted general funds		176,275			
Restricted pension fund		(482,000)			
		(305,725)			
2022 total	-	-	8,601	8,601	

3. Funding for the multi academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
DfE/ESFA grants					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,901,612	-	2,901,612	1,712,915
Other DfE/ESFA grants					
UIFSM	-	72,699	-	72,699	-
Pupil premium	-	129,461	-	129,461	50,822
Supplementary grant	-	84,885	-	84,885	19,689
Mainstream schools grant	-	33,374	-	33,374	-
Other	-	61,260	-	61,260	32,934
	-	3,283,291	-	3,283,291	1,816,360
Other government grants					
Local authority grants	-	289,347	-	289,347	65,998
Other government funding	-	-	-	-	1,310
	-	289,347	-	289,347	67,308
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	134,012	-	-	134,012	90,009
	134,012	289,347	-	423,359	157,317
	134,012	3,572,638	-	3,706,650	1,973,677
2022 total	90,009	1,883,668	-	1,973,677	

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Hire of facilities	2,562	-	2,562	3,168
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	468
	<u>2,562</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>3,636</u>
2022 total	<u>3,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,636</u>	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	10,356	-	10,356	195
	<u>10,356</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,356</u>	<u>195</u>
2022 total	<u>195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>195</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non pay expenditure		2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	Premises	Other	£	£
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	2,465,767	77,874	252,113	2,795,754	1,505,257
Allocated support costs	399,370	342,099	254,471	995,940	679,032
	<u>2,865,137</u>	<u>419,973</u>	<u>506,584</u>	<u>3,791,694</u>	<u>2,184,289</u>
2022 total	<u>1,711,412</u>	<u>232,398</u>	<u>240,479</u>	<u>2,184,289</u>	
Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes :				2022/23	2021/22
				£	£
Depreciation				205,991	114,384
Fees payable to auditor	- audit			13,100	9,425
				<u>219,091</u>	<u>123,809</u>

7. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Restricted fixed asset funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational operations					
Direct costs					
Educational operations	37,954	2,679,926	77,874	2,795,754	1,505,257
Support costs					
Educational operations	67,991	799,832	128,117	995,940	679,032
	<u>105,945</u>	<u>3,479,758</u>	<u>205,991</u>	<u>3,791,694</u>	<u>2,184,289</u>
2022 total	<u>76,299</u>	<u>1,993,606</u>	<u>114,384</u>	<u>2,184,289</u>	

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

7. Charitable activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Support staff costs	343,261	343,261	205,790
LGPS FRS102 net interest cost	67,000	67,000	192,000
Depreciation	128,117	128,117	68,414
Technology costs	61,446	61,446	29,822
Premises costs	213,982	213,982	112,628
Legal costs - other	3,688	3,688	9,460
Other support costs	145,244	145,244	49,255
Governance costs	33,202	33,202	11,663
Total support costs	995,940	995,940	679,032
2022 total	679,032	679,032	

8. Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Wages and salaries	2,029,781	1,095,111
Social security costs	186,005	107,294
Pension costs	517,519	442,962
	<u>2,733,305</u>	<u>1,645,367</u>
Agency staff costs	131,832	53,465
Staff restructuring costs	-	12,580
	<u>2,865,137</u>	<u>1,711,412</u>

b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the multi academy trust during the year was as follows:

	2022/23 Number	2021/22 Number
Teachers	26	13
Administration and support	51	25
Management	5	4
	<u>82</u>	<u>42</u>

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8. Staff (continued)

c) Higher paid staff

	2022/23 Number	2021/22 Number
The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was :		
£60,001 - £70,000	3	2
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the multi academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the multi academy trust was £507,988 (2022 : £357,318)

9. Central services

There were no central services provided during the current year.

10. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

Mrs G Healy (executive head teacher and trustee) - resigned 30.09.2022	
Remuneration	£5,000 - £10,000 (2022 : £85,000 - £90,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£0 - £5,000 (2022 : £20,000 - £25,000)
Mr J Hale (Staff Governor) - resigned 30.09.2022	
Remuneration	£5,000 - £10,000 (2022 : £60,000 - £65,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£0 - £5,000 (2022 : £10,000 - £15,000)
Mrs R Rai (Staff Governor) - resigned 20.09.2022	
Remuneration	£nil (2022 : £20,000 - £25,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£nil (2022 : £5,000 - £10,000)
Mrs J Sembhi (Staff Governor) - appointed 01.10.2022	
Remuneration	£30,000 - £35,000 (2022 : £nil - £nil)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£nil - £5,000 (2022 : £nil - £nil)

There were no travel and subsistence expenses paid or reimbursed to any trust during the current or previous year.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

11. Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy 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 £10,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	3,581,977	417,217	94,700	51,850	4,145,744
Transfers into trust	2,562,599	120,127	60,581	-	2,743,307
Additions	30,217	89,439	102,741	-	222,397
Disposals	-	(6,949)	-	-	(6,949)
At 31 August 2023	<u>6,174,793</u>	<u>619,834</u>	<u>258,022</u>	<u>51,850</u>	<u>7,104,499</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	592,309	312,186	84,681	51,850	1,041,026
Transfers into trust	871,163	86,885	36,471	-	994,519
Charge for the year	137,532	53,497	14,962	-	205,991
Released by disposals	-	(6,949)	-	-	(6,949)
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,601,004</u>	<u>445,619</u>	<u>136,114</u>	<u>51,850</u>	<u>2,234,587</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	<u>4,573,789</u>	<u>174,215</u>	<u>121,908</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,869,912</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>2,989,668</u>	<u>105,031</u>	<u>10,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,104,718</u>

13. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors from operations	3,751	673
VAT recoverable	38,090	25,168
Prepayments and accrued income	68,619	32,630
Other debtors	1,588	14,163
	<u>112,048</u>	<u>72,634</u>

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

14. Creditors	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year :		
Creditors from operations	84,668	46,892
Other taxation and social security	40,184	23,727
Accruals and deferred income	229,396	46,245
Loans	-	2,500
Other creditors	55,687	25,729
	<u>409,935</u>	<u>145,093</u>
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	14,857	15,719
Resources deferred in the year	59,958	14,857
Amounts released from previous years	(14,857)	(15,719)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>59,958</u>	<u>14,857</u>

At the balance sheet date the multi academy trust was holding funds received in advance for universal infant free school meals, Before and After School Club fees and parental overpayments.

15. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	183,807	2,901,612	(2,741,732)	(67,057)	276,630
UIFSM	-	72,699	(72,699)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	129,461	(129,461)	-	-
Transfers into trust	-	176,275	-	-	176,275
Other grants	-	468,866	(468,866)	-	-
	<u>183,807</u>	<u>3,748,913</u>	<u>(3,412,758)</u>	<u>(67,057)</u>	<u>452,905</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	969,303	-	(33,053)	-	936,250
Transfers into trust	-	1,748,789	(89,343)	-	1,659,446
DfE Group capital grants	2,129,390	136,113	(66,387)	-	2,199,116
Capital expenditure from GAG	21,394	-	(16,768)	67,057	71,683
Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	3,857	-	(440)	-	3,417
	<u>3,123,944</u>	<u>1,884,902</u>	<u>(205,991)</u>	<u>67,057</u>	<u>4,869,912</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(260,000)</u>	<u>(482,000)</u>	<u>(67,000)</u>	<u>666,000</u>	<u>(143,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,047,751</u>	<u>5,151,815</u>	<u>(3,685,749)</u>	<u>666,000</u>	<u>5,179,817</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Other income	284,558	146,930	(105,945)	-	325,543
Transfers into trust	-	200,653	-	-	200,653
Total unrestricted funds	<u>284,558</u>	<u>347,583</u>	<u>(105,945)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>526,196</u>
Total funds	<u>3,332,309</u>	<u>5,499,398</u>	<u>(3,791,694)</u>	<u>666,000</u>	<u>5,706,013</u>

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15. Funds (continued)

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

Restricted general funds

These comprise all restricted funds other than restricted fixed asset funds and include grants from The Education and Skills Funding Agency and Walsall Council.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the multi academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Unrestricted funds

These comprise resources that may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the multi academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds

These comprise resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the ESFA where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows :	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	101,745	1,712,915	(1,630,853)	-	183,807
Pupil premium	-	50,822	(50,822)	-	-
Other grants	-	119,931	(119,931)	-	-
	<u>101,745</u>	<u>1,883,668</u>	<u>(1,801,606)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,807</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	1,002,806	-	(33,503)	-	969,303
DfE Group capital grants	2,187,213	8,601	(66,424)	-	2,129,390
Capital expenditure from GAG	35,411	-	(14,017)	-	21,394
Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	4,297	-	(440)	-	3,857
	<u>3,229,727</u>	<u>8,601</u>	<u>(114,384)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,123,944</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(1,719,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(192,000)</u>	<u>1,651,000</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,612,472</u>	<u>1,892,269</u>	<u>(2,107,990)</u>	<u>1,651,000</u>	<u>3,047,751</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Other income	267,017	93,840	(76,299)	-	284,558
Total unrestricted funds	<u>267,017</u>	<u>93,840</u>	<u>(76,299)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,558</u>
Total funds	<u>1,879,489</u>	<u>1,986,109</u>	<u>(2,184,289)</u>	<u>1,651,000</u>	<u>3,332,309</u>

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15. Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows :		
Park Hall Infant Academy	345,212	-
Park Hall Junior Academy	633,889	468,365
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>979,101</u>	<u>468,365</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	4,869,912	3,123,944
Pension reserve	(143,000)	(260,000)
Total funds	<u>5,706,013</u>	<u>3,332,309</u>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching & educational support staff costs	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs (excluding depreciation)	Total 2022/23
	£	£	£	£	£
Park Hall Infant Academy	1,143,587	142,237	54,145	267,700	1,607,669
Park Hall Junior Academy	1,322,180	268,024	123,295	251,957	1,965,456
Trust	-	-	-	12,578	12,578
Academy trust	<u>2,465,767</u>	<u>410,261</u>	<u>177,440</u>	<u>532,235</u>	<u>3,585,703</u>
2022 total	<u>1,313,622</u>	<u>397,790</u>	<u>94,044</u>	<u>264,449</u>	<u>2,069,905</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	4,869,912	4,869,912
Current assets	535,358	-	853,678	-	1,389,036
Current liabilities	(9,162)	-	(400,773)	-	(409,935)
	<u>526,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>452,905</u>	<u>4,869,912</u>	<u>5,849,013</u>
Pension scheme liability	-	(143,000)	-	-	(143,000)
Total net assets	<u>526,196</u>	<u>(143,000)</u>	<u>452,905</u>	<u>4,869,912</u>	<u>5,706,013</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	3,104,718	3,104,718
Current assets	291,940	-	319,018	21,726	632,684
Current liabilities	(7,382)	-	(135,211)	(2,500)	(145,093)
	<u>284,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,807</u>	<u>3,123,944</u>	<u>3,592,309</u>
Pension scheme liability	-	(260,000)	-	-	(260,000)
Total net assets	<u>284,558</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>	<u>183,807</u>	<u>3,123,944</u>	<u>3,332,309</u>

17. Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	<u>32,550</u>	<u>-</u>

18. Commitments under operating leases

There were no operating lease commitments at 31 August 2023 nor at 31 August 2022.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for reporting year (as per the SoFA)	1,707,704	(198,180)
Adjusted for :		
Depreciation (note 12)	205,991	114,384
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(136,113)	(8,601)
Cash transferred in from existing academy	(565,691)	-
Assets transferred in from existing academy	(1,748,789)	-
Interest receivable (note 5)	(10,356)	(195)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligations transferred in from existing academy	482,000	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	36,000	162,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	31,000	30,000
Increase in debtors	(39,414)	(10,889)
Increase in creditors	267,343	23,047
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>229,675</u>	<u>111,566</u>

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Interest received	10,356	195
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(222,397)	(7,960)
Capital grants from DfE Group	136,113	8,601
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	<u>(75,928)</u>	<u>836</u>

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Loan repayments in period	(2,500)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>-</u>

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At	At
	31 August	31 August
	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,276,988	560,050
	<u>1,276,988</u>	<u>560,050</u>

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 31 August 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	560,050	716,938	-	1,276,988
Loans falling due within one year	(2,500)	2,500	-	-
	<u>557,550</u>	<u>719,438</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,276,988</u>

24. Members' liability

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

25. Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the year ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £49,221 (2022 : £25,629) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in 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 Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (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 four years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are :

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, 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 next valuation is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £254,067 (2022 : £144,229).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £234,000 (2022 : £112,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £187,000 (2022 : £89,000) and employees' contributions totalled £47,000 (2022 : £23,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 25.2% for employers and between 5.5% and 8.5% for employees.

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

The trustees have agreed that the trust will make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels over the next 21 years.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00%	4.05%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.00%	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.00%	3.05%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Sensitivity analysis	At 31 August 2023 £'000s	At 31 August 2022 £'000s
Discount rate +0.1%	(81)	(52)
Discount rate -0.1%	81	52
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	149	92
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	(149)	(92)
CPI rate +0.1%	75	46
CPI rate -0.1%	(75)	(46)

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Retiring today		
Males	17.7	21.2
Females	24.3	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.9	22.9
Females	26.0	25.4

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	31 August 2023 £	31 August 2022 £
Equities	2,443,000	1,371,000
Corporate bonds	754,000	430,000
Property	251,000	163,000
Cash and other liquid assets	144,000	82,000
Total market value of assets	3,592,000	2,046,000

The actual negative return on scheme assets was 1.2% (2022 : 3.0% negative).

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	223,000	251,000
Interest income	(144,000)	(34,000)
Interest cost	175,000	64,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	254,000	281,000

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At 1 September 2022	2,306,000	3,739,000
Business combinations - transfer in of existing academy	1,875,000	-
Current service cost	223,000	251,000
Interest cost	175,000	64,000
Employee contributions	47,000	23,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) - financial assumptions	(912,000)	(1,740,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - demographic assumptions	(36,000)	(12,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - experience gains/losses	128,000	5,000
Benefits paid	(71,000)	(24,000)
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,735,000</u>	<u>2,306,000</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At 1 September 2022	2,046,000	2,020,000
Business combinations - transfer in of existing academy	1,393,000	-
Interest income	144,000	34,000
Return on assets less interest	(97,000)	(96,000)
Employer contributions	187,000	89,000
Employee contributions	47,000	23,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(71,000)	(24,000)
Other experiences	(57,000)	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,592,000</u>	<u>2,046,000</u>
Net pension scheme liability	<u>(143,000)</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>

**The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

26. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest.

The following related party transaction(s) took place during the previous period:

Expenditure related party transactions / Income related party transactions

Park Hall Infant Academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable company (dissolved 30/5/23) in which Mr Deakin and Mrs Roberts (resigned 30/9/22) were trustees. On 1/10/22 the academy transferred into The Loriners Multi Academy Trust.		
Services recharged by related company during the period	-	2,790
Services recharged to related company during the period	-	11,432

The academy trust made the purchase at arm's length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which Mr Deakin and Mrs Roberts neither participated in nor influenced. In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook. The element above £2,500 has been provided at no more than cost.

27. Contingent liability

Following the recent decision in the Harpur vs Brazel case the trust is considering the potential liability in respect of this. At this time it is not possible to quantify the liability, if any, and no provision has been made in these accounts.

28. Existing academy acquired by the trust during the year

The assets, liabilities and operations of the following academy was transferred to The Loriners Multi Academy Trust on 1 October 2022 at nil consideration, accounted for as a gift. From the date of acquisition :

- the assets and liabilities of the incoming academy have been valued at their fair value;
- these amounts have been recognised by the multi academy trust under the appropriate balance sheet headings;
- where net assets are transferred a corresponding amount has been recognised as donated income in the SOFA;
- where net liabilities are transferred a corresponding amount has been recognised as a loss under 'expenditure on charitable activities' in the SOFA;
- amounts have been analysed between unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds dependent upon the conditions attached, if any.

The Loriners Multi Academy Trust
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28. Existing academy acquired by the trust during the year (continued)

The following tables set out the totals of the acquired assets and liabilities from all the academies transferred in to the trust during the year and any fair value adjustments made.

Park Hall Infant Academy

	Value reported by transferring trust £	Fair value adjustments £	Transfer in recognised £
Tangible fixed assets			
Freehold land and buildings	1,691,438	-	1,691,438
Fittings and equipment	33,242	-	33,242
Computer hardware	24,109	-	24,109
Current assets			
Debtors due in less than one year	43,102	-	43,102
Cash at bank and in hand	565,691	-	565,691
Liabilities			
Creditors due in less than one year	(231,865)	-	(231,865)
Creditors due after more than one year	-	-	-
Pensions			
Pension scheme liabilities	(482,000)	-	(482,000)
Net assets	<u>1,643,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,643,717</u>