

Registered number: 09702162

The Romero Catholic Academy

Directors' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022



The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

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The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details

Members	David Palmer Stephen Roche Jonathan Veasey Bernard Longley
Directors	Brendan Fawcett, Chair and Foundation Director Eleanor Barry, Vice Chair and Foundation Director Julie Fulea, Foundation Director Victor Bellanti, Foundation Director Dean Kavanagh, Foundation Director Helen Quinn, Accounting Officer and Staff Director (resigned 4 May 2022 due to change in Articles of Association)
Company registered number	09702162
Company name	The Romero Catholic Academy
Principal and registered office	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Potters Green Road Coventry CV2 2AJ
Accounting Officer and Catholic Senior Executive Leader	Helen Quinn
Senior management team	Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader Kevin Shakespeare, Principal Corpus Christi School Andy McConville, Principal Good Shepherd School Paul Madia, Executive Principal for Strategic Improvement and Sacred Heart School Lorraine Stanton, Principal SS Peter and Paul School Megan Scullion, Associate Principal St Gregory's School Dee Williams, Executive Principal St John Fisher School and St Gregory's School Mark McLoughlin, Principal St Patrick's School Matt Everett, Principal Cardinal Wiseman School Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations (resigned 15 August 2022) Terrie Kenyon, Chief Financial Officer Sarah Shirley, Head of HR (resigned 31 October 2021) Alex Thomas, Head of HR (appointed 24 January 2022) Will Allen, Director of Blue Sky (appointed 25 April 2022)

The Romero Catholic Academy
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Reference and administrative details (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Independent auditors	Dains Audit Limited 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc Solihull Business Centre 355 Stratford Road Shirley Solihull West Midlands B90 3BW
Solicitors	BPE Solicitors LLP St James' House St James' Square Cheltenham GL50 3PR Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court Upper Borough Walls Bath BA1 1RG

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Overview
For the year ended 31 August 2022

The Romero Catholic Multi Academy Company (referred to hereafter as 'MAC') exists to secure Catholic Education for 3-19 years, in North East Coventry. It comprises eight schools which share a clear Vision and Mission and a common set of Values and Aims. We have outlined these below along with brief details of our schools.

Vision

"A Beacon of Excellence for Catholic Education"

Mission

"We are a Christ-centred Community dedicated to faith formation, academic excellence and individual growth for all of our young people, all rooted in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ."

Values

These are fundamental to our long-term success and represent the set of standards under which all of us in the Romero MAC will work, and against which performance will be assessed and rewarded.

Respect

We respect and value those we work with and the contribution that they make.

Integrity

We act fairly, ethically and openly in all we do.

Service

We put our children at the centre of all that we do.

Excellence

We use our energy, skills and resources to deliver the best, sustainable results.

Aims

As Catholic Schools in the Romero MAC we are committed to:

Spiritual Growth

An ethos in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ experienced, service to each other and the wider world community is recognised, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated.

Formation of the Whole Person

Providing well rounded high quality education that empowers and enables pupils to recognise their full potential and respond to what God calls them to be.

Inspire, Innovate and Excel

Building on the collaborative success of the Romero Partnership our schools will be inspirational, academically rigorous and innovative, achieving standards of excellence in all settings, supported by exceptionally caring staff who reflect the light of Christ.

Family Partnership

Partnering with, upholding and supporting parents and guardians in their role as primary educators of their children.

Vibrant Communities

Ensure diverse, dynamic, welcoming, compassionate communities available to all.

The Romero Catholic Academy
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Overview (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Global awareness

Nurture the personal integrity and faith development of pupils that also challenges them to know and understand communities around the world.

Stewardship

Ensuring a vibrant sustainable future for our schools through unified support and prudent management of resources.

Communication

Our Vision, Mission, Values and Aims are communicated via many formats across our Academies and with our families and stakeholders and designed to develop a learning culture that provides for outstanding learning for our children from ages 3 to 19.

Our eight Academies have a combined pupil capacity of 3,719 and had a roll of 3,592 in the May 2022 school census. These schools are:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Cardinal Wiseman | (11 – 18 years) |
| • Corpus Christi | (3 – 11 years) |
| • Good Shepherd | (3 – 11 years) |
| • Sacred Heart | (3 – 11 years) |
| • SS Peter and Paul | (4 – 11 years) |
| • Saint Gregory | (3 – 11 years) |
| • Saint John Fisher | (3 – 11 years) |
| • Saint Patrick's | (3 – 11 years) |

In addition to our eight schools we have our CPD provider Blue Sky. Through Blue Sky we offer Romero-specific training and leadership support and external school-to-school support packages and CPD programmes.

The Romero Catholic Academy
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Directors' report
For the year ended 31 August 2022

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Directors' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Company operates 7 Primary and 1 Secondary academies in Coventry. The academies have a combined pupil capacity of 3,719 and had a roll of 3,592 in the May 2022 school census.

Structure, governance and management

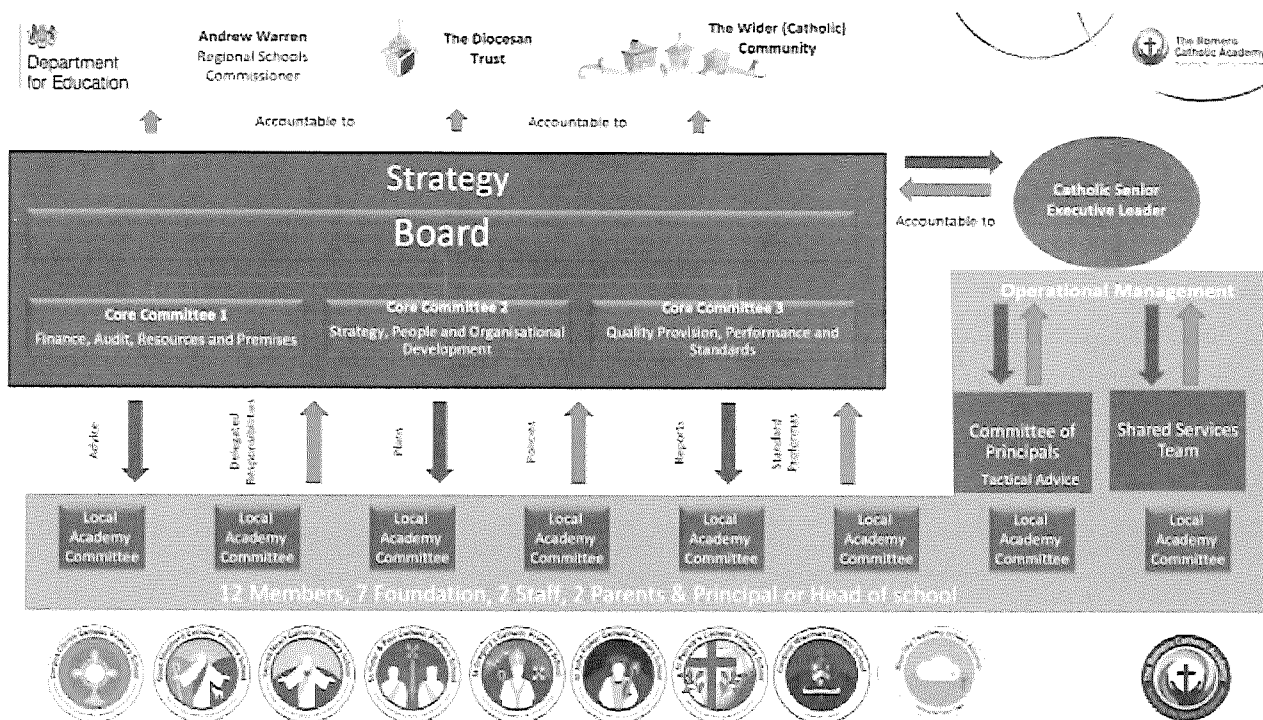
a. Constitution

The Academy was incorporated on 24 July 2015 and opened as an Academy on 1 August 2015. The Academy is a Company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. During the year the Academy updated its Articles of Association.

The Directors of The Romero Catholic Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Romero Catholic Academy.

Details of the Directors who served during the , and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

Our structure is set out below and outlines the reporting and accountability lines across the Multi Academy Company.



Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. 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.

c. Directors' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy buys into the RPA to protect Directors 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.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors

The Multi Academy Company Board are appointed according to the provisions of the Articles of Association, of which there should be three as a minimum, as follows:

- Foundation Directors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop (of which there must be two more than the other directors);
- Co-opted Directors are appointed by the Board.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors

The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of an Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as a Director. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Diocese, Local Authority, NGA, IoD and other bodies.

There are a number of Director strategy and development sessions each year, which include training sessions to keep the Directors updated on relevant developments impacting their roles and responsibilities.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The Board of Directors are responsible for the governance, leadership and management of the Multi Academy Company (MAC). The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the MAC and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees 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 a summary of activity and achievements is submitted to the Board before each meeting. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

Each Academy is governed by a Local Governing Body which contains members appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and elected staff and parent representatives.

The Directors set the strategic direction, determine the policy and procedures of the MAC, hold the MAC to account, provide support and challenge to the Principals, approve the annual School Improvement Plan, agree an annual budget, approve the statutory accounts, and make major decisions about the direction of the MAC, capital expenditure and staff structures and appointments.

The Directors have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Academies to the Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL), Local Governing Bodies and school Principals. The SMT implement the policies laid down by the Directors and report back to them at agreed timescales.

The Catholic Senior Executive Leader, Helen Quinn is the Accounting Officer.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Directors consider the CSEL, Principals, Director of Operations, Director of Blue Sky, CFO and Head of HR and Head of Estates as comprising the key management personnel of the Academy, in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the MAC on a day to day basis. The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually.

Total Directors remuneration in the period amounted to £100,267. This relates to staff Directors only. Foundation and Parent Directors are not remunerated for their work as Directors.

Details of Directors expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 29 to the accounts.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	3
Full-time equivalent employee number	3

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees	
0%	-	
1%-50%	3	
51%-99%	-	
100%	-	
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time		£
Total cost of facility time	600	
Total pay bill	17,920,991	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%
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i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Board of Directors complete a pecuniary interest declaration on an annual basis which sets out any relationship with the MAC that is not directly related to duties as a Board member. Each Board member is required to declare a potential 'conflict of interest' if it arises between such declarations. Once such a declaration has been made the Board member concerned takes no further part in any decision relating to the matter declared.

A register of interests can be found on romeromac.com.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The multi-academy company offers exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Directors.

The multi-academy company has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including but not limited to:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Complaints policy
- Grievance policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Health & safety policy
- Menopause policy

In accordance with the multi-academy company's equal opportunities policy, the multi-academy company has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Full details of these policies are available on romeromac.com.

Any major changes which will impact on an employee's terms and conditions or changes to relevant policies are sent to Trade Unions before implementation. Major restructures require Trade Union and employee consultation.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and aims of the Company are specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Catholic schools, offering a broad range of curriculum and conducted as Catholic schools in accordance with the code of Canon Law of the Latin Church and the doctrinal, social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. We follow the directive and policies issued by the diocesan bishop to ensure that the formation, governance and education of our Academy schools are based on the principles of Christian doctrine and at all times serving as witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy's main strategy is rooted in the mission of the Catholic Church. Our main objectives for the year ended 31 August 2022 are:

- **Spiritual Growth**

An ethos in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ experienced, service to each other and the wider world community is recognised, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated.

- **Formation of the Whole Person**

Providing well rounded, high quality education that empowers and enables pupils to recognise their full potential and respond to what God calls them to be.

- **Inspire, Innovate and Excel**

Building on the collaborative success of the Romero Partnership our Academies will be inspirational, academically rigorous and innovative, achieving standards of excellence in all settings, supported by exceptionally caring staff who reflect the light of Christ.

- **Family Partnership**

Partnering with, upholding and supporting parents and guardians in their role as primary educators of their children.

- **Vibrant Communities**

Ensure diverse, dynamic, welcoming, compassionate communities available to all.

- **Global awareness**

Nurture the personal integrity and faith development of pupils that also challenges them to know and understand communities around the world.

- **Stewardship**

Ensuring a vibrant sustainable future for our Academies through unified support and prudent management of resources.

c. Public benefit

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The MAC aims to advance for the public benefit, education in the surrounding area. In particular, by maintaining, managing and developing schools and offering a broad curriculum.

The MAC provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the local community.

Achievements and performance

Achievements in 2021/22

Cardinal Wiseman

We were delighted to finally welcome Ofsted to our school in the Autumn of 2021, with the HMI judging our school to be Good in all areas. This was a momentous moment and we are extremely proud of the achievements of all staff and students. After two years without external examinations, it was lovely to celebrate the achievements of students who had sat externally-marked examinations, and see steps forward from our 2019 results. Our A-Level results were excellent, with a VA score of +0.2, and our GCSE P8 score has increased from -0.24 to -0.18, although we still have a number of remarks coming in. Extra-curricular activity is increasing, and we now have a functioning choir who perform at multiple events, a violinist group, a burgeoning drama group who are practising for The Wizard of Oz, and the continuation of Guardian Ballers working with students on mental health awareness and elite sports coaching. With Covid restrictions lifted we have planned multiple trips to the theatre and international trips to Rome and the French Alps.

KEY STAGE 4 RESULTS (Validated data)

Summary:

	9 – 4 Inc EnMa	9 – 5 Inc EnMa	9 – 7 Inc EnMa	A8	P8
2022	55.1%	34.4%	10.1%	41.3	-0.18
2019	52.0%	33.1%	10.0%	38.6	-0.25

	CARDINAL WISEMAN	LOCAL AUTHORITY	ENGLAND
Progress 8 score	-0.18	-0.03	-0.03
Progress 8 score: English	0.09	0.06	-0.04
Progress 8 score: Maths	-0.09	0.05	-0.03
Progress 8 score: EBacc slots	-0.10	-0.05	-0.04
Progress 8 score: Open slots	-0.50	-0.15	-0.04

Achievements and performance (continued)

Sub-group Progress data:

	2022	2019
Att 8	41.3	38.55
P8	-0.18	-0.25
P8 Eng	0.09	0.03
P8 Maths	-0.09	-0.25
P8 EBACC	-0.10	-0.34
P8 Open	-0.50	-0.33

EnMa 'crossover':

	2022	2019
% students EnMa 4+	53.6%	47.1%
% students EnMa 5+	33.5%	26.1%

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Headlines:

- Overall attainment:
 - o 11.1% of all grades were 8/9 compared to 5.1% for 2019.
 - o 5.2% of all grades were U compared to 3.8% for 2019.
 - o Female performance compared to male - approximately 11% higher @ both 9-4 and 9-5 (incl EnMa). This compares to 12% lower in 2019.
 - o SEND achieving 9-5 (incl EnMa) = 0% compared to 38.4% for non-SEND. This compares to 11.1% and 28.1% in 2019.
 - o SEND achieving 9-4 (incl EnMa) = 12.5% compared to 60.1% for non-SEND. This compares to 27.8% and 49.6% in 2019.
- Strengths:
 - o Improvement in both A8 and P8 scores from 2019. Analysis of grades show this was mainly at grade 4.
 - o Subjects performing well include Art, Biology, Chemistry and French.
 - o Maths P8 score showed significant increase on 2019 figure.
- Areas for development:
 - o Attainment/Progress in 'Open Bucket' subjects needs to increase significantly; in particular, Computer Science, Geography, ICT and Photography.
 - o Progress in English Literature dropped significantly compared to 2019 (note: this was a result of a change in examination board which has already been reversed for this year).
 - o Increase % students achieving both English and Maths at both 4+ and 5+.
 - o Further narrow the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged.
 - o Narrow gap between SEND and non-SEND (note: this is a small cohort so easily subject to individual outcomes).

KEY STAGE 5 RESULTS

A Level Qualifications:

	A*-A %	A*-B%	A*-E%	Average Grade
Cohort (79)	26.8	52.4	100	C+
National Comparison	36.3	62.8	98%	B-
Males (37)	31.7	54.9	100	B-
Females (42)	22.1	50.0	100	C+
Disadvantaged (14)	24.0	56.0	100	C+
Non disadvantaged (65)	27.3	51.7	100	C+

	A*-A %	A*-B%	A*-C%	A*-E%
2022	27% (36.3%)	52% (62.8%)	77% (82.7%)	100% (98.6%)
2021	17% (25.5%)	38% (51.8%)	77% (76.3%)	98% (97.9%)

Achievements and performance (continued)

	Dist*-Dist %	Dist*-Merit%	Dist*-Merit%	Average Grade
Cohort (79)	38.7%	79.6%	100%	Merit=
National Comparison				
Males (37)	55.9%	82.4%	100%	Dist-
Females (42)	28.8%	78.0%	100%	Merit+
Disadvantaged (14)	30.3%	75.8%	100%	Merit+
Non disadvantaged (65)	43.3%			

	Dist*-Dist %	Dist*-Merit%	Dist*-Merit%
2022	39%	80%	100%
2021	29%	76%	100%

Key Headlines:

- Overall attainment:
 - o 10% of A-level grades were A*; 11% of vocational grades were Dist*. This was an increase of 10% compared to the 2019 results.
 - o 19% of students achieved A/A/B or Dist/Dist/Merit or better.
 - o Female performance was below Male. This reversed the picture seen in 2019.
 - o All students applying to university gained a place. There were no NEETS.
 - o 21% of students applying to university gained a place at a Russell Group.
- Strengths:
 - o There was an improvement from the 2019 results in all grade ranges for both A level and vocational qualifications.
 - o Subjects performing well include Art, Economics, History and Psychology.
- Areas for development:
 - o Subjects performing less well compared to 2019 include Biology, Chemistry and English Literature.
 - o Female performance to be in-line with Male performance.

Corpus Christi

With lifted restrictions, staff made full use of the planned enrichment opportunities across the year and it was lovely to finish the year with year 6 performing their end of year production at Cardinal Wiseman. This enrichment was furthered throughout the year as the school participation in the Commonwealth Connections project. As part of the project, children worked closely with 6 other schools around several projects including performing a live dance at the Coventry railway station and benefitted from the planting of a new forest as part of the Commonwealth legacy. This proved a lovely backdrop to the school hosting the first Romero Eco Summit, Romero Awakens, which proved a real inspiration for pupils and staff from all the Romero schools. In May the school welcomed CSI inspectors as part of the pilot inspection. Given the overall profile of a new and inexperienced teaching team, this proved to be a useful exercise to work through and helped to galvanise the team. Although the report was not published, verbal feedback was extremely positive and the inspectors spoke highly of the inclusive nature of the school and the additional support provided for the most vulnerable pupils and families in the school. In addition, the school and parish continue to develop an effective working partnership which has resulted in an increase in families attending the sacramental programme and the presence of the Parish Priest within the school where he has supported the development of Catholic Life. Engagement with parents continues to strengthen with an amazing school fete celebrated in the summer term and has been highlighted through the recent parent survey.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Good Shepherd

The successful Ofsted visit during the academic year was the opportunity for the school to show the high standards it had achieved despite the COVID disruptions of the previous 2 years. The outstanding judgements for Behaviour and Attitudes as well as Personal development is testament to the Romero Child offer and the opportunities the school provides. All available sporting events were attended by our pupils and every year group experienced a local trip, a further afield trip and had a visitor come to their class to enhance the cultural capital and bring the curriculum to life. The impact of this being that they could show that they had learnt and remembered more. Links with the parish church were strengthened with school masses on Sundays, raising the profile of the school within the parish. Parent surveys overwhelmingly showed that efforts to engage families in their children's learning and school life were welcomed and had been a great success. The school had supported others in the lead up to their inspections and we also joined a neighbouring school for the Jubilee celebrations as a local community.

Sacred Heart

After a period of instability, all children returned to a "normal" routine following nearly two years of restrictions. Home-school partnerships were strengthened as we increased opportunities for parents/carers to be active within their children's learning and educational experiences. It was lovely to welcome the parents back into the school. Charitable outreach was a huge focus for the year with over £5,000 being raised for our Lenten charities. We celebrated successful sporting achievements throughout the year with many teams winning first place, in particular our dance team reaching the National final, performing in Cheltenham. Standards continued to improve, through quality first teaching, interventions and catch-up tutoring, resulting in many year groups achieving well. Our Romero Academy curriculum continued to be developed to ensure that it is broad and balanced and provides challenge and exciting opportunities for all learners. Our wider curriculum offer provided numerous opportunities to develop cultural capital, including school trips and external visitors to provide a range of cultural experiences for our pupils.

SS Peter and Paul

There was much to celebrate during 2021 – 2022. Our staff continued to show great resilience and determination in challenging times. They responded particularly well to our new performance development "Putting Staff First" and positively engaged with subject leadership development (Romero). Our children were provided with wonderful enrichment opportunities and experiences (cultural capital) including trips and external visitors to support their learning. Staff signed up to lead after school clubs which ensured there were opportunities for all year groups with minimal cost for parents. Children were given opportunities to be leaders with many joining groups such as play leaders, young ambassadors, Eco Team and GIFT. They also looked at social justice and were proactive in leading change through charitable work and improving the environment by taking part in tree planting and community litter picks. The Eco Team achieved the Green Award. We continued to work with the Origin Maths Hub and held several open days for headteachers and maths leads across Coventry and Warwickshire to observe maths lessons and discuss progression. External visits over the year were very positive: the Section 48 recognised that we are a good Catholic school who are outstanding in Catholic Life, the Cost of the School Day audit highlighted many ways in which we are supporting our families and the SEND review (Romero) identified good practice across the school. Our learning mentor has continued to work with the local authority to provide "Firm Family Foundations" for our more vulnerable families. This has proven to be a great source of strength for those who have attended. 98% of parents (Parent Survey Summer 2022) would recommend SSPP with 100% recognising our high expectations for all children to work hard and do their best.

Achievements and performance (continued)

St Gregory's

2021-2022 was a year filled with many successes for the community of St Gregory's. In October 2021, we celebrated 50 years of St Gregory's and welcomed Archbishop Bernard to celebrate Mass with One Life Music supplementing the music. With the introduction of a new leadership team and many new additions to our staff team, the profile of teaching and learning was strengthened. The children's books were a real celebration of the high expectations of our curriculum, and demonstrate exceptional standards of presentation, as well as capturing the engagement and enjoyment they have for their learning which was corroborated in subsequent pupil voice. The profile of Catholic Life was raised significantly during the year, as leaders aspired to self-evaluate as outstanding in this area. The GIFT team worked to become an established part of school life and were responsible for leading prayer and liturgy throughout the year. All children had the opportunity to take part in a social action project which made a difference in the local community. These included serving afternoon tea to parishioners, donating Easter Eggs to the children at UHCW hospital, writing letters to the sick in the parish community. A revamped Sacramental Programme was developed by leaders at St Gregory's and St John Fisher in collaboration with our Parish Priest and successfully allowed children, and their parents, to reflect upon the importance of the Sacrament before making a commitment to and undertaking the Sacrament itself. Home-school partnership continued to be strengthened as we increased opportunities for parents/carers to be active within their children's learning and educational experiences. These included parent prayer times, Mothers' Day craft sessions, looking at learning, food tastings, faith focus week and class assemblies. Finally, in a new tradition, Year 5 and 6 took to the Albany Stage to perform 'Pantastic' in their end of year show. This provided children with a wealth of opportunities to explore their God-Given talents, fulfil elements of Romero Shines from the Romero Child Charter and truly embrace our aim of providing children with opportunities to make moments that become memories!

St John Fisher

Our school's Section 48 RE Inspection was extremely successful in November 2021: highlighting that our provision is outstanding in two areas – Catholic Life and Collective Worship. The Inspection Team recognised the efforts of our relentless support and outreach to our most vulnerable pupils and families.

'The provision and response to pastoral care is outstanding. The school responds proactively to meet the needs of the children in its care. For example, as a result of the pandemic, leaders identified a need for some of its youngest children to receive additional support to enable them to independently access the school's provision. In response, the Fisher Room was created, whereby children can take time out of the classroom setting to be immersed in sensory and educational stimuli, when it becomes stressful for them.' We welcomed an external audit of the Cost of School Living (Local Authority) during the summer term. The audit highlighted that our school is inclusive and no child is left behind in terms of the wider curriculum offer. Summary of recommendations will be considered by our Local Governing Body and Leadership Team. Our GIFT Team and pupils worked relentlessly in their charitable outreach. Our school supported CAFOD, Dementia Care, Father Hudson's Homes, Ukraine and the elderly in our local community. Teachers contributed to the work of the Romero Curriculum with a focus on Science, Computing and Design Technology, this has ensured that high quality planning and resources are in place. Year 4 and 5 Teachers worked with Warwick University and the Paul Hamlyn Trust to develop a creative scheme of work in Geography. Findings will be used to support a research paper commissioned by Warwick University.

Achievements and performance (continued)

St Patrick

Jesus' message of 'Loving One Another' has permeated all that we have done at St Patrick's over the last year. Coming out of Covid restrictions and challenges, God's love for us was clear in our interactions and expectations of each other. I, as Principal, was greatly supported by a prayerful and faithful congregation of parish, governor, parent, staff and student. Sacramental preparation and their delivery, class and whole school collective worship, our weekly class masses and whole school masses are the jewel in the crown as we come together to deliver our distinctly Catholic Romero curriculum. St Patrick's has gone from strength to strength over the last year and this position was confirmed in our Ofsted inspection of November 2021 with an overall 'Good' judgement. Most pleasing of all, was the 'Outstanding' judgement in Personal Development achieved during this inspection and it is testament to the 'over and above' hard work which gives St Patrick's school its place in 'the heart of its community'. Staff changes have solidified our positive ethos with a 'can do' attitude. A focus on quality first teaching saw good levels of progress across each year. KS progress issues have been identified through pupil progress meetings and a rigorous monitoring schedule. Personnel were put in place to ensure all areas of the school were making the required progress. 'Putting Staff First' performance development saw staff take on their own projects through an Inquiry Question to develop their practice and skill. This process was shortened to two terms and its benefits will be seen in practice moving forward. The Romero Staff Charter and Child Charter are commonplace terms around school currently and I look forward to seeing their impacts in our academic scores over the coming years. We have seen a reduction in families requiring CIN and CP support, showing our parental engagement strategies (daily meet, greet and depart, coffee mornings, workshops, fetes and fairs) are beginning to work – however it has been a bit slower than I had hoped, and this remains a priority moving forward. Residentials and trips have enriched our already strong curriculum and the children have gained much through their involvement in extracurricular activities. The Romero Sports' award showcases our commitment to the whole self and the tremendous after-hours commitment from staff that was recognised on a MAC level. There has been much to celebrate.

School Inspections

Three of our schools were inspected in 2021/22 (St Patrick's, Good Shepherd and Cardinal Wiseman) with all being judged as overall "Good". This is an improved grading for all three from "Requires Improvement".

d. Overview

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA 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 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which 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 Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Academy received total income of £21.7m and incurred total expenditure of £23.3m. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £1.6m.

At 31 August 2022 the net book value of fixed assets was £2.7m and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Academy has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in note 24 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Principals, and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

e. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the multi-academy company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue 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 accounting policies.

Fundraising

Our practice conforms to recognised standards and the Board receive termly reports on all activity and funds secured. We have not received any fund raising complaints.

Plans for future periods

Our future plans include:

- Sustaining, securing and further developing the Catholic life of the MAC.
- Staff attraction, increasing staff benefits and retention through being an 'employer of choice'.
- Raising attainment in all schools to be in line with national expectations for attainment and progress and continuing a strong upward three-year trend.
- Ongoing VFM and economies of scale across the MAC.
- MAC wide marketing strategies to promote the Romero Child offer.
- Developing leadership skills at Board, LAC and senior leadership levels to include succession planning.
- Develop strategies to manage an effective work life balance across the MAC.
- Continuing to respond to the Diocesan vision for a single MAC for Coventry and North Warwickshire.

Directors' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

The MAC does not hold any funds on behalf of others.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

Auditors

The Directors, having been notified of the cessation of the partnership known as Dains LLP, resolved that Dains Audit Limited be appointed as successor auditor with effect from 1 April 2022. The designated Directors will propose a motion reappointing Dains Audit Limited at a meeting of the Directors.

The Directors' report was approved by order of the Board of Directors, as the company directors, on 5 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Brendan Fawcett
Chair of the Board

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Catholic Senior Executive Leader, 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 Romero Catholic Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' report and in the Statement of directors' responsibilities. The board of has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Brendan Fawcett, Chair and Foundation Director	6	6
Eleanor Barry, Vice Chair and Foundation Director	5	6
Julie Fulea, Foundation Director	5	6
Victor Bellanti, Foundation Director	6	6
Dean Kavanagh, Foundation Director	4	6
Helen Quinn, Accounting Officer and Staff Director (resigned on 4 May 2022)	4	4

During the year there was one resignation and no new Director appointments to the Board of Directors.

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Governance Reviews

The Board carried out two strategy review sessions to look at the medium term direction of the Academy and evaluate the skills and impact of the Board over the year. This has led to the appropriate allocation of Directors to Core Committees and specific projects.

The **Finance, Resources and Premises Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Directors. Its purpose is to:

- Provide a robust financial environment, which meets all requirements regarding statutory compliance, ensuring solvency and probity, so that the financial resources made available to the Academy Company for running its Academies are managed effectively and efficiently, to provide a quality education for the children in the Academies that is value for money.
- Provide a strong policy, monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework so the Academy Company and its Academies function in line with the Academies Financial Handbook, so the public money given to educate the children on roll is used effectively and efficiently, to ensure they make at least good progress in all aspects of learning, formation, attainment and progress.
- Enable the Board of Directors of the Academy Company to be accountable for the use of: public monies, diocesan charitable assets (premises and buildings) made available to provide Catholic education; and all other resources held in the ownership of the Academies, by ensuring high standards of management and administration of the Academies' finances and resources.
- Provide the Board of Directors with assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, its financial systems and controls.
- Provide internal scrutiny which delivers objective and independent assurance.
- Provide assurances to the Board of Directors that risks are being adequately identified and managed by: reviewing the risks to internal financial controls and agreeing a programme of work to address, and provide assurance on, those risks.
- Investigate any activity within its term of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff, who are requested to co-operate with the committee as it conducts its investigations.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Directors and to other committees as necessary and appropriate.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Victor Bellanti, Chair	3	3
Ian Jones	3	3
Helen Quinn	3	3
Dean Kavanagh	3	3
Brendan Fawcett	3	3
John Gibbons	3	3

The Audit Committee is incorporated into the Finance, Resources and Premises committee.

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Catholic Senior Executive Leader has responsibility for ensuring that the multi-academy company delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

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 multi-academy company 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 Romero Catholic Academy for the year and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Directors has reviewed the key risks to which the multi-academy company is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Directors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the multi-academy company's significant risks that has been in place for the year and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors.

The risk and control framework

The multi-academy company'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 Directors
- regular reviews by the Finance, Audit, Resources and Premises Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Directors has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Gallagher Risk Management Solutions. The annual program of internal scrutiny was to review Health & Safety across 3 of our schools. Through a combination of interviews, inspection of the premises and examination of supporting documentation, the audit identified the strengths and weaknesses of the MAC's risk management and statutory compliance practices.

On an annual basis, the external auditor reports to the Board of Directors through the Finance, Resources and Premises committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the ' financial responsibilities. The risk register is monitored monthly by management.

No material issues were noted during the year.

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Catholic Senior Executive Leader has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

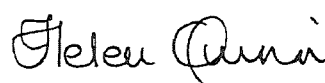
- the work of the internal auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the MAC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Resources and Premises committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 5 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Brendan Fawcett
Chair of the Board



Helen Quinn
Catholic Senior Executive Leader
and Accounting Officer

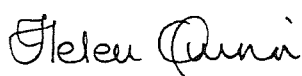
The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of The Romero Catholic Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the multi-academy company Board of Directors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the multi-academy company, under the funding agreement in place between the multi-academy company and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the multi-academy company Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the multi-academy company, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the multi-academy company's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2021.

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 Directors and ESFA.



Helen Quinn
Catholic Senior Executive Leader
and Accounting Officer

Date: 5 December 2022

Statement of Directors' responsibilities
For the year ended 31 August 2022

The Directors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' 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 Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Directors 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 Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The Directors 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 Directors on 5 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Brendan Fawcett
Chair of the Board

Independent auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Romero Catholic Academy

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Romero Catholic Academy (the 'multi-academy company') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 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 company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the multi-academy company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' 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 company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Independent auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Romero Catholic Academy (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the multi-academy company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in 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 returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of directors' responsibilities, the Directors (who are also the directors of the multi-academy 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 Directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the multi-academy 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 Directors either intend to liquidate the multi-academy company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Romero Catholic Academy (continued)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

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

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in note 3 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Independent auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Romero Catholic Academy (continued)

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the multi academy company's legal advisors

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable multi-academy company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable multi-academy company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable multi-academy company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Andrew Morris FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Birmingham

5 December 2022

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Romero Catholic Academy and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Romero Catholic Academy during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Romero Catholic Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Romero Catholic Academy and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Romero Catholic Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Romero Catholic Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Romero Catholic Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 July 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Romero Catholic Academy and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Dains Audit Limited

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Date: 5 December 2022

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	7,257	138,503	788,981	934,741	830,722
Other trading activities	5	95,318	-	-	95,318	54,409
Investments	6	949	-	-	949	2,665
Charitable activities:	4					
Multi-academy company educational operations		549,230	20,098,505	-	20,647,735	19,753,198
Teaching school		-	-	-	-	129,437
Total income		652,754	20,237,008	788,981	21,678,743	20,770,431
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	32,204	204,265	-	236,469	43,852
Multi-academy company's educational operations	7	414,016	22,014,560	679,052	23,107,628	21,033,077
Teaching school		-	-	-	-	119,684
Total expenditure		446,220	22,218,825	679,052	23,344,097	21,196,613
Net income/(expenditure)		206,534	(1,981,817)	109,929	(1,665,354)	(426,182)
Transfers between funds	17	(37,844)	(494,402)	532,246	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		168,690	(2,476,219)	642,175	(1,665,354)	(426,182)
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	12,968,000	-	12,968,000	(2,014,000)
Net movement in funds		168,690	10,491,781	642,175	11,302,646	(2,440,182)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	17	1,156,318	(17,597,781)	2,723,018	(13,718,445)	(11,278,263)
Net movement in funds		168,690	10,491,781	642,175	11,302,646	(2,440,182)
Total funds carried forward	17	1,325,008	(7,106,000)	3,365,193	(2,415,799)	(13,718,445)

The notes on pages 36 to 71 form part of these financial statements.

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 09702162

Balance sheet
As at 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	2,711,985	2,141,636
Current assets			
Debtors	15	1,130,112	1,116,340
Cash at bank and in hand	21	2,805,192	2,735,519
		<u>3,935,304</u>	<u>3,851,859</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,957,088)	(1,559,940)
Net current assets		<u>1,978,216</u>	<u>2,291,919</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>4,690,201</u>	<u>4,433,555</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(7,106,000)	(18,152,000)
Total net liability		<u>(2,415,799)</u>	<u>(13,718,445)</u>
Funds of the multi-academy company			
Restricted funds:			
Restricted fixed asset funds	17	3,365,193	2,723,018
Restricted income funds	17	-	554,219
		<u>3,365,193</u>	<u>3,277,237</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension liability	17	(7,106,000)	(18,152,000)
Pension reserve	17	(7,106,000)	(18,152,000)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>(3,740,807)</u>	<u>(14,874,763)</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	<u>1,325,008</u>	<u>1,156,318</u>
Total funds		<u>(2,415,799)</u>	<u>(13,718,445)</u>

The financial statements on pages 33 to 71 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue on 5 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:



Brendan Fawcett
Chair of the Board

The notes on pages 36 to 71 form part of these financial statements.

The Romero Catholic Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	582,736	938,465
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(513,063)	(167,897)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		69,673	770,568
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,735,519	1,964,951
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	<u>2,805,192</u>	<u>2,735,519</u>

The notes on pages 36 to 71 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

General Information

The Romero Catholic Academy is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given on the reference and administrative details page. Details of the principal activity are given in the Directors' Report.

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 of financial statements

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

The multi-academy company's functional and presentational currency is GBP. The financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Going concern

The Directors 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 multi-academy company to continue as a going concern. The Directors 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 company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the multi-academy company'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 Fund accounting

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

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

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

Transfers between funds relate to the use of the General Annual Grant (GAG) to purchase fixed assets.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the multi-academy company which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of financial activities in the year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions) where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the multi-academy company 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'.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the multi-academy company 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 company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the multi-academy company apportioned to charitable activities.

Employment termination benefits, including redundancy and severance payments, are measured as the expenditure required to settle the contractual obligation and recognised on the date of contract termination.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Taxation

The multi-academy company 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 company 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Site improvements	- 10 years straight-line
Furniture and equipment	- 5 years straight-line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight-line
Motor vehicles	- 5 years 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.

Where the Academy Company has been granted use of the school buildings by the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham under supplemental agreements, the Academy Accounts Direction prescribes that under this agreement the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the Diocese. Consequently, the buildings are not recognised on the Multi Academy Company's balance sheet.

The supplemental agreement includes the right for the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Trustees to give not less than 2 years written notice to the Academy Company and Secretary of State for Education to terminate the agreements. No such written notice has been received as at the date of the approval of these financial statements.

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 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 multi-academy company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.11 Provisions

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

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

1.12 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. 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.

1.13 Interest receivable

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

1.14 Operating leases

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

The multi-academy company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the multi-academy company to the fund in respect of the year.

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

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

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

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

1.16 Agency arrangements

The Academy Company acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA and Refugee funding from the Local Authority. Payments received and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Multi-Academy Company does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Multi-Academy Company can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in note 27.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The multi-academy company 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.

Defined benefit pension scheme liability

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

Depreciation

The Directors have reviewed the useful lives of fixed assets and associated residual values and concluded that they are appropriate to the charitable activities of the multi-academy company.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	7,257	138,503	15,109	160,869
Capital Grants	-	-	680,803	680,803
Donated Fixed Assets	-	-	93,069	93,069
	<u>7,257</u>	<u>138,503</u>	<u>788,981</u>	<u>934,741</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	13,780	25,122	10,108	49,010
Capital Grants	-	-	659,732	659,732
Grants	-	-	121,980	121,980
	<u>13,780</u>	<u>25,122</u>	<u>791,820</u>	<u>830,722</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

4. Funding for the multi-academy company's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational Operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	17,007,921	17,007,921
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UFSM	-	300,026	300,026
Pupil Premium	-	983,775	983,775
Teachers' Pay Grant	-	19,552	19,552
Teachers' Pension Grant	-	55,250	55,250
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	188,411	188,411
	-	18,554,935	18,554,935
Other Government grants			
Local Authority Grants	-	971,838	971,838
Other Government Grants	-	350,839	350,839
	-	1,322,677	1,322,677
Other income from the multi-academy company's educational operations	549,230	98,952	648,182
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	121,221	121,221
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	720	720
	-	121,941	121,941
	549,230	20,098,505	20,647,735

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

4. Funding for the multi-academy company's charitable activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Educational Operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	15,771,317	15,771,317
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UFSM	-	340,999	340,999
Pupil Premium	-	937,762	937,762
Teachers' Pay Grant	-	185,676	185,676
Teachers' Pension Grant	-	524,661	524,661
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	208,128	208,128
	-	17,968,543	17,968,543
Other Government grants			
Local Authority Grants	-	960,813	960,813
Other Government Grants	-	97,566	97,566
	-	1,058,379	1,058,379
Other income from the multi-academy company's educational operations	301,915	145,441	447,356
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	247,280	247,280
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	31,640	31,640
	-	278,920	278,920
	301,915	19,451,283	19,753,198

The company received £121k (2021 - £247k) of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £128k (2021 - £240k).

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	95,318	95,318

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings	54,409	54,409

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	949	949

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest	2,665	2,665

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	236,469	236,469
Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	14,246,125	-	1,753,558	15,999,683
Allocated support costs	4,150,195	1,065,123	1,892,627	7,107,945
Teaching school	-	-	-	-
	<u>18,396,320</u>	<u>1,065,123</u>	<u>3,882,654</u>	<u>23,344,097</u>
	Staff Costs 2021 £	Premises 2021 £	Other 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	43,852	43,852
Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	13,368,227	-	1,476,372	14,844,599
Allocated support costs	3,633,370	847,707	1,707,401	6,188,478
Teaching school	39,850	921	78,913	119,684
	<u>17,041,447</u>	<u>848,628</u>	<u>3,306,538</u>	<u>21,196,613</u>

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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Multi-Academy Company's Educational Operations	15,999,683	7,107,945	23,107,628

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Multi-Academy Company's Educational Operations	14,844,599	6,188,478	21,033,077

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Pension finance costs	313,000	228,000
Staff costs	14,246,125	13,368,227
Depreciation	292,626	262,617
Educational supplies	522,935	468,388
Examination fees	134,648	73,903
Staff development and other staff costs	130,021	99,842
Consultancy	249,526	225,619
Other direct costs	110,802	118,003
	15,999,683	14,844,599

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Notes to the financial statements
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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	4,150,195	3,633,370
Depreciation	331,840	207,689
Catering	414,016	319,547
Technology costs	284,273	276,206
Travel, subsistence and expenses	7,370	2,671
Staff related insurance	-	3,044
Recruitment and other staff expenses	86,862	79,487
Maintenance of premises and special facilities	269,483	287,562
Other premises costs	210,841	225,324
Legal costs - other	42,415	48,959
Cleaning and caretaking	35,592	33,604
Operating lease rentals	341,731	319,007
Rates	61,677	60,892
Security	29,466	20,076
Energy	399,968	220,249
Professional fees	24,038	24,102
Governance	52,835	54,271
Transport	122,597	138,797
Other support costs	242,746	233,621
	<u>7,107,945</u>	<u>6,188,478</u>

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	341,731	319,007
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	624,466	470,306
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	24,675	25,400
- other services	1,725	4,600
	<u>262,591</u>	<u>519,313</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	12,171,724	11,688,227
Social security costs	1,174,225	1,093,649
Pension costs	4,575,042	3,940,769
	<u>17,920,991</u>	<u>16,722,645</u>
Agency staff costs	458,888	300,158
Staff restructuring costs	16,441	18,644
	<u>18,396,320</u>	<u>17,041,447</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Contractual severance payments	<u>16,441</u>	<u>18,644</u>
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b. Severance payments

The multi-academy company paid 2 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u>2</u>

c. Staff numbers

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	178	172
Educational Support	229	226
Admin and Clerical	76	80
Catering	33	26
Management	21	21
	<u>537</u>	<u>525</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
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10. Staff (continued)

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	5	3
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the multi-academy company comprise the Directors 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 company was £1,206,933 (2021 - £1,201,453).

11. Directors' remuneration and expenses

One or more Directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the multi-academy company. The principal and other staff Directors 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 Directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2022	2021
		£000	£000
Helen Quinn, Accounting Officer and Staff Director (resigned Staff Director 4 May 2022)	Remuneration	105 - 110	110 - 115
	Pension contributions paid	25 - 30	25 - 30
Charlotte Miller, Staff Director (resigned 28 November 2020)	Remuneration		10 - 15
	Pension contributions paid		0 - 5

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Directors (2021 - 2) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no Director expenses have been incurred (2021 - £NIL).

12. Directors' and Officers' insurance

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

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

13. Central services

The multi-academy company has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- CSEL and Director of Operations support
- Finance Services
- HR Services
- Facilities Management
- IT Management
- School Improvement

The multi-academy company charges for these services on the following basis:

The charge is based on 5% of annual GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	94,013	82,295
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	375,964	386,457
Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	57,484	48,510
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	99,462	88,101
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	50,505	44,991
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	94,084	84,133
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	54,880	48,822
Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School	46,129	43,490
Total	872,521	826,799

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Notes to the financial statements
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14. Tangible fixed assets

	Site improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2021	1,786,283	1,481,018	408,534	-	3,675,835
Additions	600,280	315,601	273,775	13,000	1,202,656
Disposals	-	(36,130)	(92,061)	-	(128,191)
At 31 August 2022	2,386,563	1,760,489	590,248	13,000	4,750,300
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	265,807	1,015,128	253,264	-	1,534,199
Charge for the year	212,059	292,626	119,131	650	624,466
On disposals	-	(36,130)	(84,220)	-	(120,350)
At 31 August 2022	477,866	1,271,624	288,175	650	2,038,315
Net book value					
At 31 August 2022	1,908,697	488,865	302,073	12,350	2,711,985
At 31 August 2021	1,520,476	465,890	155,270	-	2,141,636

15. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	1,106	6,686
Other debtors	1,788	1,406
VAT repayable	224,511	158,855
Prepayments and accrued income	902,707	949,393
	1,130,112	1,116,340

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Notes to the financial statements
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16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	397,907	353,773
Other taxation and social security	272,252	257,544
Other creditors	304,243	311,477
Accruals and deferred income	982,686	637,146
	<u>1,957,088</u>	<u>1,559,940</u>
	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	237,551	255,938
Resources deferred during the year	318,989	237,551
Amounts released from previous periods	(237,551)	(255,938)
	<u>318,989</u>	<u>237,551</u>

At the balance sheet date the multi-academy company was holding funds of £178,033 received in advance in respect of ESFA Universal Infant Free School Meals, £34,511 in respect of ESFA Rates Relief, £82,312 in respect of National Tutoring Fund, £8,000 in respect of Catch-up Premium, £12,435 of school trip income and £3,698 of other income.

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/(out) £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	1,156,318	652,754	(446,220)	(37,844)	-	1,325,008
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	473,452	17,007,921	(17,067,738)	(413,635)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	983,775	(983,775)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	300,026	(300,026)	-	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	121,221	(121,221)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	7,170	(7,170)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	263,213	(263,213)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	1,316,227	(1,316,227)	-	-	-
Teaching school	80,767	-	-	(80,767)	-	-
Other funding	-	237,455	(237,455)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(18,152,000)	-	(1,922,000)	-	12,968,000	(7,106,000)
	<u>(17,597,781)</u>	<u>20,237,008</u>	<u>(22,218,825)</u>	<u>(494,402)</u>	<u>12,968,000</u>	<u>(7,106,000)</u>

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

17. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/(out) £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE Group capital grants	2,211,124	773,872	(411,980)	-	-	2,573,016
Capital expenditure from GAG	477,683	-	(251,963)	532,246	-	757,966
Capital donations	34,211	15,109	(15,109)	-	-	34,211
	<u>2,723,018</u>	<u>788,981</u>	<u>(679,052)</u>	<u>532,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,365,193</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>(14,874,763)</u>	<u>21,025,989</u>	<u>(22,897,877)</u>	<u>37,844</u>	<u>12,968,000</u>	<u>(3,740,807)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(13,718,445)</u></u>	<u><u>21,678,743</u></u>	<u><u>(23,344,097)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>12,968,000</u></u>	<u><u>(2,415,799)</u></u>

17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Restricted Funds:

General Annual Grant (GAG) - represents the core grant provided to the Academy Company by the Education & Skills Funding Agency in order to fund day-to-day operations of the Academies. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the multi-academy company was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Pupil Premium - represents grant funding from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to provide additional support to pupils from low income families.

Universal Infant Free School Meals - represents grant funding from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to provide free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Teachers' Pay & Pension Grants - represents grant funding from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to fund increases to teachers' salaries and pension contributions.

Catch-up premium - represents grant funding from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to help pupils and disadvantaged young people catch up on missed education because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding - represents other grant support from the Education & Skills Funding Agency in response to COVID-19.

Other DfE/ESFA grants - represents other grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

Other Government Grants - represents grant funding received from the Local Authority and other Government bodies.

Teaching School - represents income received specifically from operating the Blue Sky Teaching Alliance teaching school, which ceased to operate in the prior year.

Other - represents all other restricted revenue income received by the Academy Company.

Pension Reserve - represents the Academy Company's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with the majority of such schemes, this fund is in a deficit position due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets, circumstances of which were inherited on conversion to Academy status. The Academy Company is making ongoing deficit payments in an attempt to reduce the pension deficit.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds:

Fixed Assets transferred on conversion - represents the fixtures and computer equipment donated to the trust by the Archdiocese of Birmingham on conversion to Academy status.

DfE Group Capital Grants - represents grant funding and donated fixed assets from the Education & Skills Funding Agency to enable the purchase and maintenance of fixed assets and the completion of significant capital works as deemed necessary by the Academy Company.

Capital expenditure from GAG - represents GAG funding used to purchase fixed assets and is therefore transferred from the General Annual Grant (GAG) fund accordingly.

Capital donations - represents ad hoc donations and contributions received for capital purposes.

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/(out) £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	1,115,517	372,769	(331,968)	-	-	1,156,318
Teaching school	71,014	-	-	(71,014)	-	-
	<u>1,186,531</u>	<u>372,769</u>	<u>(331,968)</u>	<u>(71,014)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,156,318</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	171,543	15,771,317	(15,228,924)	(240,484)	-	473,452
Pupil Premium	-	937,762	(937,762)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	340,999	(340,999)	-	-	-
Teachers' Pay Grant	-	185,676	(185,676)	-	-	-
Teachers' Pension Grant	-	524,661	(524,661)	-	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	247,280	(247,280)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	31,640	(31,640)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	208,128	(208,128)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	1,058,379	(1,058,379)	-	-	-
Teaching school	-	129,437	(119,684)	71,014	-	80,767
Other funding	-	170,563	(170,563)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(14,834,000)	-	(1,304,000)	-	(2,014,000)	(18,152,000)
	<u>(14,662,457)</u>	<u>19,605,842</u>	<u>(20,357,696)</u>	<u>(169,470)</u>	<u>(2,014,000)</u>	<u>(17,597,781)</u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/(out) £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed Assets transferred on conversion	8,023	-	(8,023)	-	-	-
DfE Group capital grants	1,839,101	781,712	(409,689)	-	-	2,211,124
Capital expenditure from GAG	317,883	-	(80,684)	240,484	-	477,683
Capital donations	32,656	10,108	(8,553)	-	-	34,211
	<u>2,197,663</u>	<u>791,820</u>	<u>(506,949)</u>	<u>240,484</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,723,018</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>(12,464,794)</u>	<u>20,397,662</u>	<u>(20,864,645)</u>	<u>71,014</u>	<u>(2,014,000)</u>	<u>(14,874,763)</u>
Total funds	<u>(11,278,263)</u>	<u>20,770,431</u>	<u>(21,196,613)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,014,000)</u>	<u>(13,718,445)</u>

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Notes to the financial statements
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17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Romero Shared Services Team	1,325,008	200,377
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	-	504,492
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	-	270,265
Good Shepherd Catholic School	-	124,527
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	-	239,915
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	-	59,060
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	-	97,663
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	-	17,297
Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School	-	116,174
Blue Sky Teaching Alliance	-	80,767
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	1,325,008	1,710,537
Restricted fixed asset fund	3,365,193	2,723,018
Pension reserve	(7,106,000)	(18,152,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	(2,415,799)	(13,718,445)
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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £
Romero Shared Services Team	1,523,948	1,261,778	-	125,187	2,910,913
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	1,458,337	191,223	65,849	310,727	2,026,136
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	5,470,372	906,106	369,805	1,050,231	7,796,514
Good Shepherd Catholic School	850,934	168,623	33,676	194,744	1,247,977
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	1,518,071	246,544	68,672	302,445	2,135,732
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	664,874	186,358	24,975	170,009	1,046,216
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	1,469,604	281,613	49,464	290,585	2,091,266
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	843,987	182,041	28,316	181,383	1,235,727
Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School	758,998	160,305	27,988	169,040	1,116,331
Blue Sky Teaching Alliance	16,194	549,410	60,437	486,778	1,112,819
Multi-academy company	14,575,319	4,134,001	729,182	3,281,129	22,719,631

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Notes to the financial statements
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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £
Romero Shared Services Team	1,140,182	971,406	-	79,119	2,190,707
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	1,362,228	219,802	52,682	408,767	2,043,479
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	5,100,945	1,026,684	303,914	1,114,303	7,545,846
Good Shepherd Catholic School	808,936	201,297	22,539	172,211	1,204,983
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	1,532,720	293,078	52,364	289,345	2,167,507
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	694,812	206,491	16,398	160,224	1,077,925
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	1,426,207	300,804	48,993	272,830	2,048,834
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	822,432	213,406	28,920	173,460	1,238,218
Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School	707,765	200,402	16,481	164,476	1,089,124
Blue Sky Teaching Alliance	39,850	-	-	79,834	119,684
Multi-academy company	13,636,077	3,633,370	542,291	2,914,569	20,726,307

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,711,985	2,711,985
Current assets	1,325,008	1,957,088	653,208	3,935,304
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,957,088)	-	(1,957,088)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(7,106,000)	-	(7,106,000)
Total	1,325,008	(7,106,000)	3,365,193	(2,415,799)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,141,636	2,141,636
Current assets	1,156,318	2,076,994	618,547	3,851,859
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,522,775)	(37,165)	(1,559,940)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(18,152,000)	-	(18,152,000)
Total	1,156,318	(17,597,781)	2,723,018	(13,718,445)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

19. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(1,665,354)	(426,182)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	624,466	470,306
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(680,803)	(791,820)
Interest receivable	(949)	(2,665)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	1,609,000	1,076,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	313,000	228,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(13,772)	174,462
Increase in creditors	397,148	210,364
Net cash provided by operating activities	582,736	938,465

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest receivable	949	2,665
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,202,656)	(840,402)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	680,803	669,840
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	7,841	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(513,063)	(167,897)

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank	2,805,192	2,735,519
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,805,192	2,735,519

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank	<u>2,735,519</u>	<u>69,673</u>	<u>2,805,192</u>

23. Capital commitments

	2022 £	2021 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	<u>326,668</u>	<u>502,352</u>

24. Pension commitments

The multi-academy company'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 period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £293,837 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £284,878) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The 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% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, 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 result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,644,507 (2021 - £1,621,311).

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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 2022 was £1,579,000 (2021 - £1,533,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,302,000 (2021 - £1,265,000) and employees' contributions totalled £277,000 (2021 - £268,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.1 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.05	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	3.05	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.05	2.90

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

	2022 Years	2021 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.2	21.6
Females	23.6	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.9	23.4
Females	25.4	25.8

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(394)	(705)
Discount rate -0.1%	394	725
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	669	1,130
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(669)	(1,084)
CPI rate +0.1%	339	652
CPI rate -0.1%	(339)	(635)

Share of scheme assets

The multi-academy company's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 31 August 2021 £
Equities	6,437,000	5,163,000
Corporate bonds	2,018,000	1,185,000
Property	769,000	592,000
Cash	384,000	1,524,000
Total market value of assets	9,608,000	8,464,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £254,000 (2021 - £1,175,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(2,911,000)	(2,341,000)
Interest income	151,000	106,000
Interest cost	(464,000)	(334,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(3,224,000)	(2,569,000)

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	26,616,000	20,876,000
Current service cost	2,911,000	2,341,000
Interest cost	464,000	334,000
Employee contributions	277,000	268,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(13,399,000)	3,082,000
Benefits paid	(155,000)	(285,000)
At 31 August	16,714,000	26,616,000

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

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	8,464,000	6,042,000
Interest income	151,000	107,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(431,000)	1,068,000
Employer contributions	1,302,000	1,265,000
Employee contributions	277,000	268,000
Benefits paid	(155,000)	(285,000)
Admin expenses	-	(1,000)
At 31 August	9,608,000	8,464,000

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2022 the multi-academy company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	125,926	104,554
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	196,730	127,436
	<u>322,656</u>	<u>231,990</u>

26. Members' liability

Each member of the multi-academy company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the multi-academy 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.

27. Agency arrangements

The Academy Company distributes 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA to students as an agent. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2022, the Academy Company received £19,269 and disbursed £24,472 from the fund. A balance of £6,096 (2021 - £11,299) is owed to specific pupils and is included in other creditors.

The Academy Company also distributes refugee funding on behalf of the Local Authority. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2022, the Academy Company received £1,500 and disbursed £400 from the fund. A balance of £4,309 (2021 - £3,209) is owed to specific pupils and is included in other creditors.

28. Controlling party

The Academy Company is controlled by the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, via the Barberi and Newman Academy Trust.

29. Related party transactions

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

Owing to the nature of the multi-academy company's operations 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 a director has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the multi-academy company's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The multi-academy company is related to Perry Interim Management Services Limited because a close relative of a Director is a majority shareholder and Director of Perry Interim Management Services Limited. Purchases of £1,725 (2021 - £1,245) were made by the multi-academy company in the year with £Nil (2021: £Nil) owing at the balance sheet date.

The multi-academy company is related to The Futures Trust because a Director is a Trustee of the trust. Income of £800 (2021 - £Nil) was received from the trust, with expenses of £80 (2021 - £Nil) being incurred. There was no balance owing (2021 - £Nil) at the balance sheet date.

The multi-academy company purchases educational services from its controlling party, the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. During the year, expenditure of £15,527 (2021 - £12,728) was incurred with the Diocesan Education Service, with no amount owing at the balance sheet date.

The multi-academy company is related to the Barberi and Newman Academy Trust by virtue of it being the sole member of the multi-academy company. The below transactions occurred during the year with other schools which are under the control of the Barberi and Newman Academy Trust. All elements above £2,500 have been provided 'at no more than cost' and each school has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

Purchases from related schools:

	2022 £	2021 £
Holy Family Catholic Primary School (School Direct Trainee)	-	3,900
Holy Spirit MAC (School Direct Trainee)	5,100	-
	<u>5,100</u>	<u>-</u>

Income from related schools:

	2022 £	2021 £
Holy Family Catholic Primary School (School Direct Trainee)	540	-
Holy Spirit MAC (School Direct Trainee)	5,100	-
	<u>5,640</u>	<u>-</u>