

# Nexus Multi Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Forrester Boyd  
Chartered Accountants  
26 South Saint Marys Gate  
Grimsby  
DN31 1LW

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

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## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Reference and administrative details

<b>Members</b>	A Child MBE, chairman A Ahmed (resigned 31 August 2023) C Hall (resigned 31 August 2023) P Girling (resigned 6 October 2022) P Leach R Potts (appointed 1 September 2023) S Oates (appointed 1 September 2023) S O'Brien (appointed 1 December 2022)
<b>Trustees (Directors)</b>	A Child MBE G Askew N Judah P Castleton R E Potts R Palmer S Booth S Shelley M Greenwood C Bradley (appointed 1 June 2023) T Havenhand (appointed 1 June 2023)
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	W Carratt
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	W Carratt, Chief Executive Officer/Accounting Officer J Hardwick, Assistant Chief Executive Officer J Tattershall, Assistant Chief Executive Officer K Smith, Chief Finance Officer S Schofield, Regional Director P Williams, Regional Director D Dickinson, Executive Lead Primary C Garbutt, Executive Lead Primary L Windle, Executive Headteacher (Abbey, Discovery and Fountaindale Schools) J Gibson, Executive Headteacher (Becton School) L Suter, Executive Headteacher (Heatherwood and North Ridge Community Schools)
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	Hilltop School Larch Road Maltby Rotherham South Yorkshire S66 8AZ
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	10075893

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Reference and administrative details (continued)**

**Auditors** Forrester Boyd  
Chartered Accountants  
26 South Saint Marys Gate  
Grimsby  
DN31 1LW

**Bankers** Barclays  
1 Churchill Place  
London  
E14 5HP

**Solicitors** Howes Percival  
Bell House, First Floor  
Seebeck Place  
Knowlhill  
Milton Keynes  
MK5 8FR

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31/08/2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates 14 academies in the City of Doncaster, county of Nottinghamshire, borough of Rotherham and Sheffield City areas, with a further school scheduled to convert on 1 September 2023 and another sponsored school due to academise in the 2023-24 academic year. 12 of the Trust's academies are special academies, 1 is a mainstream primary academy and one is an all-age hospital special academy.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### ***Constitution***

The academy trust (the Trust) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It was incorporated on 21 March 2016 and commenced operating as an academy on 1 June 2016. The charitable company is known as Nexus Multi Academy Trust and its company number is 10075893.

The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the multi academy trust.

The Trustees of Nexus Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date of these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

##### ***Members' liability***

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

##### ***Trustees' indemnities***

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Charitable Company's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of negligence, default of breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or a breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Charitable Company.

##### ***Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees***

As per the trust's Articles of Association, the Members may appoint, by ordinary resolution, up to 11 Trustees.

Nexus MAT has a published procedure for the nomination, selection and appointment of Trustees, which is outlined in Appendix F of the Nexus MAT Governance Handbook. No individual has an entitlement to nominate a Trustee for consideration by the Board and for recommendation to Members.

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### ***Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees***

The Nexus MAT Governance Handbook outlines the expectations on all holders of governance office (Members, Directors/Trustees and those in local governance) in regard to the work of the Trust. This also includes details of what expectations an individual governor can have on the Trust to provide support and training. The Trust has a Prospectus, which is refreshed annually and provides structure to the induction of new personnel as well as increasing transparency with the public and stakeholders for how the Trust operates.

The Trust has a governance development programme which is refreshed annually and which is informed by a competency self-assessment by individual Trustees and governors, built around the core areas of work of their governing board and based on the National Governance Association's model template.

Training provision is made available by the Trust through internal workshops via local or national development agencies, local safeguarding children's partnerships, or via a suitably qualified and experienced third party provider.

The Trust has a published procedure for responding to concerns about a Member, Director/Trustee or governor.

#### ***Organisational structure***

Nexus has 5 appointed Members, 2 of whom are the original signatories for the company.

One of the Members is also a Director/Trustee of the company, holding the office of Chair of the Trust Board. The Trust has a published Scheme of Delegation, which details the decision-making prerogative reserved for Members, Trustees, the Trust Executive, local governance and Headteachers. The Trust also has a published procedure which outlines the delegation of financial powers.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Trust is the accounting officer for Nexus MAT. The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Chief Executive Officers typically attend all Board meetings, at the discretion of the Board, to report to Trustees in line with business requirements. The Chief Executive Officer and Executive Regional Directors line manage all Headteachers of the Trust's constituent academies. The Chief Executive Officer line manages the Chief Finance Officer. The Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate Affairs is the named governance professional for the Trust.

Board business meetings are scheduled bi-monthly and the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer are responsible for the submission of reports to Trustees, with a requirement to also put recommendations for decisions to the Board. All reports outline key risks and required mitigation to ensure these are effectively managed. The minutes of all Board meetings are published on the Trust website.

In 2022-23, the Trust academies ended the year with 2,156 pupils on roll, an increase of 478 compared to the previous academic year.

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

The Board of Trustees holds responsibility for setting the pay and remuneration for executive officers.

The Trust has a published pay policy and a published appraisal and capability policy which guides how pay is determined and when progression through individual salary ranges can be considered and awarded.

Headteacher pay is set using the School Teacher Pay and Conditions Document and the formulas included therein.

The executive officer pay ranges and the Head of Digital salary scale are mapped to Leadership Points of the School Teacher Pay and Conditions Document. This ensures Trustees are drawing on relative contextual information and setting remuneration in line with a nationally recognised pay model. All other posts are mapped to the National Joint Council pay scales. The Trust HR Manager provides all relevant information and advice at the request of Trustees. The HR Manager is a Board appointment and the Chair meets at least once a term on a 1:1 basis with the HR Manager and separately with the Chief Finance Officer.

#### ***Trade union facility time***

There was no trade union facility time in the year.

#### ***Connected organisations, including related party relationships***

There were no related party transactions in the 2022-23 academic year, as per the definition in the Academy Trust Handbook.

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### ***Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)***

The Trust last ran its biennial employee engagement survey in April 2022, therefore no formal, workforce-wide consultation programme took place in this accounting period. However, in 2022-23 the Trust established a Staff Parliament, which includes staff governors in its membership. This forum meets termly, with minutes of the meetings shared with Trustees. Throughout 2022-23, Trustees also commissioned a survey of school Headteachers and followed this up with 1:1 meetings with a cross section of Trust and school leaders. This 360° approach was utilised to triangulate the reports on Trust culture and management behaviours, as reported by the Chief Executive Officer.

#### ***Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy trust***

Nexus MAT is committed to ensuring creditors are paid on time within the agreed terms and that all suppliers are treated fairly. We strive to achieve a balance between cost effectiveness, responsibility and fairness and we aim to settle disputes quickly.

The Trust has supported schools in the procurement of shared services and contracted provision throughout 2022-23, such as educational psychology and energy. Across 2022-23 the Trust was the only MAT nationally to work with the Department for Education Commercial Team on a procurement improvement pilot, undertaking a self-evaluation against the standards set by the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply and developing an improvement plan in response.

On a wider partnership basis, the Trust has engaged with local authority governance forums such as Schools Forum and related partnerships boards. The Trust has also worked closely with colleagues from the BBC, Confederation of School Trusts, the Department for Education and the Education & Skills Funding Agency on changes to the special educational needs and disabilities system in England, as well as broader strategic issues across state education. In May 2023 the Trust was appointed as the lead MAT nationally for special schools for the Department for Education's flagship Flexible Working Ambassador programme.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### ***Objects and aims***

As per the Nexus Multi Academy Trust Articles of Association, the objects of the Trust are:

- i. to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("the mainstream Academies") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the 16 to 19 Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academies"); and
- ii. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

In fulfilling these objects, the Trust Board has continued to hold the executive to account for the realisation of the Trust's 3 strategic objectives:

1. Increasing quality of provision in our education system
2. Developing partnerships to better meet need
3. Maintaining a financially viable, sustainable and ethically driven Multi Academy Trust

These strategic objectives inform the annual business planning of the Trust and its constituent academies.

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### ***Objectives, strategies and activities***

For the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023, Trustees have overseen the work of the accounting officer in pursuing the ambitions outlined in the Nexus MAT Strategic Plan, with performance monitored through the 2022-2023 strategic business plan and performance management of the accounting officer.

On 1 September 2022, the Trust opened a new free special school – Discovery Academy – in Sheffield. It also incorporated a re-brokered special school, Beech Academy, sponsored a re-brokered special academy, Fountaindale School, and on 1 January 2023 opened a new special school, Kenwood Academy, following its de-amalgamation from Becton School. On 1 September 2022 the Trust opened a new campus in Worsborough, in partnership with Barnsley Council, the West Riding site. In November 2022 the Trust was named as sponsor for Holgate Meadows School, Sheffield. Further growth is planned for 2023-24, pending Departmental approval.

2022-23 saw two new Trustees appointed, with no Trustees stepping down. This leaves the Board with no residual vacancies.

The Trust achieved all of its business objectives in 22-23, with a number of objectives exceeded.

#### ***Public benefit***

Through the growth of provision in our academies to meet the commissioning needs of local authorities, and through the realisation of year 3 of the refreshed 5-year strategic plan, Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

In September 2022, Trustees supported the executive in providing urgent intervention to support a failed school, Holgate Meadows, and the Trust was named as sponsor for this school in November 2022.

The accounting officer has continued to ensure robust commissioning arrangements are in place with Local Authorities for all academies, so that all children and young people with special educational needs receive fair funding to support their educational progress.

In 2022-23 Trustees continued to enhance the resourcing of the central finance function in line with Trust growth, creating a Transaction Finance Team and adding a new layer of Regional Finance Leads. The Trust has also created and appointed to a new Payroll Manager post, which is matrix managed between the Chief Finance Officer and the HR Manager.

The Trust met all statutory return deadlines without exception. The annual work plan of the Audit & Risk Committee includes details of all DfE/ESFA statutory returns so that Trustees can be rigorous in their oversight of compliance.

For the sixth consecutive year Trustees published workforce pay data in line with the Government's Gender Pay Gap reporting requirements.

Key performance indicators as outlined in the Trust performance dashboard are monitored by Trustees to ensure there is clear line of sight between the Board and the performance of the academies. Financial reporting to Trustees is underpinned by robust systems.



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Strategic Report

##### Achievements and performance

In the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023, Trustees oversaw improvements to the Trust quality assurance system which has provided enhanced oversight and more informed anticipatory intervention.

In working hard to meet strategic objective 1, the Trust has continued to deliberately pursue the creation and maintenance of consistent and stable leadership in our academies to act as the primary enabler of sustainable improvement. Where necessary, senior leaders have been asked to undertake secondments or short term assignments to support other schools, ensuring all academies in the Trust have the leadership capacity to perpetually move forward.

The Trust established a pupil parliament across all its schools, with a Trust Cabinet being convened for the first time in the summer term of 2022. Throughout 2022-23, this new Cabinet provided a conduit for the Trust executive and the Board of Trustees to hear the voice of pupils in a structured, systematic way, and to commission new activity in response to pupil voice, such as the coordination of the Trust Olympics.

The Trust has commenced a programme of change and improvement which utilises the Schools Capital Allocation in a needs-led way, informed by a detailed assessment of the estate by the appointed asset partner, RLB.

The Trust has continued to work closely with local authority commissioners and we have continued to develop innovative plans with Barnsley and Sheffield Councils to help meet their sufficiency needs for this year and future years. Nexus MAT academies continue to foster their own partnerships on a school-by-school basis, which in turn provides invaluable advocacy for the Trust. Trust Headteachers and the wider workforce are our strongest ambassadors, and the opportunities we have generated this year - and those we continue to create next year - are a direct result of the symbiosis between the Trust and our schools.

The Trust secured significant additional funding this year, with Department for Education Trust Capacity Funding (TCaF) of £499k secured. In addition, the Chief Executive Officer has generated £25k of income by being the named accounting officer of the Evolve Trust for the full accounting period, with a remit to manage the transition of schools out of that MAT and wind that Trust down. This income has come directly to Nexus MAT, and the Chief Executive Officer has not been paid any enhancement for taking on these additional duties, personally.

The financial environment we operate in continues to be hostile, and with 13 special academies our Trust is disproportionately impacted by the pressure on local authority High Needs Blocks, all of which are overspent by millions in the local area. The Trust has utilised its overall liquidity to underwritten in-year deficits for a small number of our schools in 2022-23, with a return to balance expected by August 2024.

Our financial viability continues to depend on prudent expenditure and robust, evidence based negotiations with local authority commissioners for the pupils they place in special schools as well as fair and equitable funding being provided by the Department for Education. As a consequence of sound financial oversight, scrutiny and challenge: the majority of our academies ended 2022-23 with in-year budget surpluses, with balanced budgets set for 2023-24. Trustees have continued to play a crucial role in holding the executive to account for the running of academies during the period.

##### *Going concern*

After making appropriate enquiries, Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Multi Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Trustees are confident that the steps taken to manage strategic and operational risks ensure that the Trust has and will continue to fulfil the requirements as outlined in the articles and the master funding agreement. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

##### *Promoting the success of the academy*

The Trust continues to work within and across local, regional and national networks to promote the success of the MAT. Trust membership of the Confederation of School Trusts has provided a number of platforms for the Trust to engage with other MATs and Government agencies.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Financial review

During the period ended 31 August 2023 total expenditure of £42,479,284 (2022: £31,251,483) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA and other incoming resources together, excluding capital and pension reserve movements, totalling £45,599,407 (2022: £32,093,939). The excess of income over expenditure was £1,266,763 (2022: £842,456) for the period ended 31 August 2023. All figures exclude movements in the fixed asset reserves, pension liability reserve and transfers on conversion. The balance as at 31 August 2023 of the restricted general funds, excluding pension reserves, plus the unrestricted funds amounted to £5,195,821 (2022: £3,929,058), after transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund of £1,853,360 (2022: £228,842).

Total funds at 31 August 2023 are made up as follows: fixed asset funds amounting to £79,301,584 (2022: £53,295,592), pension deficit reserve (negative) of £Nil (2022: £3,514,000), other restricted funds amounting to £426,956 (2022: £1,077,456) and unrestricted funds amounting to £4,768,865 (2022: £2,851,602), which in total, amount to £84,497,405 total funds for the Trust.

The Trust received capital grants of £2,784,197 (2022: £847,451) this year.

The health of the Trust year-end reserve is largely accounted for by the surpluses transferred to the Trust with those academies transferring in the financial year £1,977,852. Trustees will be exploring how these funds can be used to improve the quality of education in the academies through the 2023-24 year.

#### Principal funding

The academies in the Trust are funded in part by General Annual Grant (via the Education & Skills Funding Agency) and in part by element 3 funding from the Local Authority which has responsibility for commissioning the place of an individual child with an Education, Health & Care Plan, in line with a child's assessed needs. The majority of special educational needs places across all 9 special academies are commissioned by either Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council or Sheffield City Council, with a number of places commissioned by neighbouring local authorities. Craggs Community Schools serves the catchment area in which it is positioned, and has a statistically high number of pupils on roll with an EHCP for a mainstream primary.

The central MAT is funded via a financial contribution from the constituent academies (5% of each academy's total budget, sans any grant funding such as pupil premium, sports premium, catch up funding etc), and covers the costs of the following services:

- Leadership & management functions to ensure compliance with statutory guidance (inc. salary costs of accounting officer and chief finance officer);
- Human Resources;
- Procurement;
- Information Governance oversight (Data Protection Officer);
- ICT strategy and operational services;
- Academy Broadband provision;
- Financial Internal & External Audit Costs;
- Corporate Governance management;
- Policy management;
- Governance recruitment, support and development;
- Clerking services;
- Asset Management and Health & Safety compliance (including "Competent Person" function);
- Legal services;
- Safeguarding systems, external audit and review;
- Clinical supervision for Designated Safeguarding Leads;
- Strategic support for negotiations with commissioners and business case writing to secure growth and development of the academies;
- School improvement and support (including leadership intervention where required);
- Statutory careers advice and strategy;
- 16+ strategic support and development;
- Strategic change projects support;
- Complaints investigations and oversight;
- Teaching School Hub membership; and
- Central team premises.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### ***Reserves policy***

Nexus Multi Academy Trust has a published reserves and investments policy to protect its activities by providing a financial comfort zone against an unpredictable environment and to make sufficient provision for future cash flow requirements and capital procurement. The policy also provides the framework for future strategic planning and decision-making, in line with best practice examples published by the Charities Commission. Compliance with an effective reserves and investments policy will restrict the impact of any risk upon the continuing operations of the trust.

The reserves and investments policy and the establishment of ranges for reserves is based upon an annual risk assessment of the internal and external operating environment, as well as having a due regard for the nature of activities undertaken by the Trust for its beneficiaries. The Trust policy outlines the different types of reserves as defined by Trustees:

1. General Reserve (Uncommitted revenue)
2. Cash Reserve
3. Capital Reserve
4. Pension Reserve

The cumulative target range for cash reserve for the Trust has been established at between 2% and 5% of equity income for each financial year.

Reserves held in excess of the target percentage will be reviewed by Trustees at least annually and an appropriate range of options will be considered which might include releasing the funds into the revenue budget in furtherance of the objectives; assigning funds to appropriate designated reserves as may be determined by the Trustees; or investing the funds to generate further income to allow expansion of the Multi Academy Trust's work.

At 31 August 2023 the balance of the trusts unrestricted general funds was £4,768,865 (2022 : £2,851,602) and the balance of its restricted general funds was £426,956 (2022: £1,077,456).

After taking into account the fixed asset funds of £79,301,584 (2022: £53,295,592) as of 31st August 2023, and the pension liabilities of £Nil (2022: £3,514,000) the Trust had total funds of £84,497,405 (2022: £53,710,650). The significant increase/decrease is driven by the revaluation of Local Government Pension Scheme Liabilities, where we have seen a £3,514,000 reduction in our liability due to changes in the discount rate. Of the total fixed asset funds, £76,297,747 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

#### ***Investment policy***

As priority was given to the generation of reserves in the first 5 years of the Trust's existence given the impact of austerity on public sector spending, no investment strategies have been developed in this reporting period. This is reviewed annually, though Trustees will consider the impact of rising costs and Government spending plans in response, to ensure reserves are used with proportionality and responsibility.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Principal risks and uncertainties*

The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has a requirement for each Single and Multi Academy Trust to exercise robust risk management. Identifying and managing the possible and probable risks that an organisation may face over its working life is a key part of effective governance for Multi Academy Trusts of all sizes and complexity. The responsibility for the management and control of Nexus Multi Academy Trust rests with the Trust Board and the Chief Executive Officer and therefore their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and reviewing and considering the results.

By managing risk effectively, Trustees can help ensure that:

- significant risks are known and monitored, enabling Trustees and governors to make informed decisions and take timely action;
- the Trust makes the most of opportunities and develops them with the confidence that any risks will be managed;
- forward and strategic planning are improved;
- the Trust's aims are achieved more successfully.

A detailed Trust-wide risk register is in place which outlines the Trust's principal risks and uncertainties. It uses the values and methods which the Charity Commission recommends organisations should use to calculate risk. Risks are categorised into:

- Accountability/Governance;
- School improvement/quality of education
- Resource Management;
- Strategic

The impact and likelihood of risk is assessed and a risk 'Heat map' is produced which summarises the types and level of risk the Trust are managing at any given point.

Ongoing monitoring and assessment of the risk register is delegated by the Trust Board to the Committees. These Committees in turn may delegate some duties to local governance. The key 4 strategic risks the Board use to frame the risk register are as follows:

- Governance is not effective;
- The quality of provision within and across the Trust is not increasing;
- Resources are not utilised effectively and therefore spend is not producing value for money in line with the Trust's strategic objectives;
- The Trust does not foster or develop strategic partnerships to effectively deliver our objectives.

Risks continue to be monitored closely with robust mitigations in place.

#### **Fundraising**

The Trust does not take a coordinated role in fundraising and this is something that continues to be facilitated at a local level by each academy, with funds raised being deposited in each academy's school fund, accounted for separately to school budget.

The Trust and its academies do not work with any commercial participators / professional fundraisers.

All local fundraising conforms with recognised standards and no agency is asked to raise funds on the Trusts behalf.

There have been no fundraising complaints in this reporting period and all academies have ensured that any fund raising ensures protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022
<b>Energy consumption break down (kWh)</b>		
Gas	4,685,900	4,287,032
Electricity	1,177,705	1,382,731
Transport fuel	92,907	-
<b>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>		
Owned transport - mini-buses	23.42	11.48
Gas consumption	843.46	790.02
Total scope 1	866.88	801.50
<b>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>		
Purchased electricity	194.20	267.39
<b>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	2.71	2.39
<b>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>1063.79</b>	<b>1071.28</b>
<b>Intensity ratio</b>		
Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per pupil	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.60</b>

#### Quantification and Reporting Methodology:

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. Estimates have been used where required for consumption levels.

#### Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

#### Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

In 2022-23 all schools have had a condition survey undertaken to identify areas of improvement and efficiency. This informed Asset Plans and prioritisation across the trust. In 2023 the following work has undertaken place to directly improve energy efficiency:

- \* New roof with solar panels installed at Heatherwood
- \* Energy data monitoring kit installed at Hilltop, Coppice, and Pennine View
- \* Engagement with a charity Achieve Your Goals to establish a New Zero Network across schools and improve carbon footprints across the trust
- \* Energy procurement aligned across the trust with better overview of usage for gas and electric
- \* New catering equipment installed at Beech Academy
- \* Procurement of a new fuel card contract to improve data analysis on fuel usage

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Plans for future periods*

The Trust continues to deliver the key strategic aims as published in its strategic plan.

The Trust experienced manageable growth in 2022-23 with the addition of 4 new schools, and further growth in the pipeline for 2023-24. The Trust is also actively seeking to open new free school provision.

The Trust is pursuing its plans for reducing its carbon footprint and attaining a net zero position before the end of the decade.

Like all schools, the Trust faces key financial challenges following the unprecedented pay awards for public sector staff.

#### **Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others**

There are no arrangements in place where Nexus Multi Academy Trust or its Trustees are acting as custodian trustee.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

#### **Reappointment of auditor**

The auditors, Forrester Boyd, have indicated their willingness to continue in office for the remainder of the 3 year contract.

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
*Andy Child*  
.....020CCC98065E490.....  
A Child MBE  
Trustee

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Governance statement

#### Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Child MBE	7	10
R E Potts	9	10
G Askew	9	10
S Booth	10	10
C Bradley (appointed 1 June 2023)	2	2
P Castleton	9	10
M Greenwood	5	10
T Havenhand (appointed 1 June 2023)	0	2
N Judah	8	10
R Palmer	8	10
S Shelley	9	10

Trustees have continued to operate a monthly meeting schedule with an alternating focus: on a bi-monthly basis the Trust Board will alternate between a full "business" meeting and a "deep dive" meeting. The former is where standing reports are presented and scrutinised, and the latter is a less business-focused agenda which allows trustees to focus specifically on one of the Trust's strategic priorities and receive more qualitative information. Trustees have reserved the right to adopt business items onto the "deep dive" meeting agenda where this will expedite a decision being made. Trustees also held a development away day on 28 September 2022 and had a draft accounts review meeting on 7 December 2022, ahead of formally receiving and agreeing the accounts on 14 December 2022.

#### Governance reviews

The two Trustee-only membership committees of the Board - Audit & Risk and Standards — met in line with the business schedule and undertook wide ranging scrutiny work on behalf of the Board.

The Trust executive continued to provide termly reports of the performance dashboard through 2022-23 to support Trustee scrutiny and challenge. In January 2023, Beech Academy was inspected and in March 2023 Bader Academy was inspected, with the Ofsted findings and judgement in line with the Trust's assessment of the schools.

Trustees commissioned an external review of the Trust in the autumn of 2022, and developed a 360° review programme in response. Trustees also undertook an annual self-assessment of knowledge and skills in the spring of 2023 and used this to inform a development plan. All local governors undertook an annual self-assessment in the spring of 2023.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Governance statement (continued)

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust's finance, audit and risk arrangements, systems of internal control and to advise and aid the Board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Trust's finances, ICT and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Audit & Risk committee is responsible to the Trust Board and the Committee's Terms of Reference are adopted by the Board and may only be amended with the approval of the Board. From September 2023, the Audit & Risk Committee will split into two new committees: Audit & Risk and Finance & Infrastructure, with each new committee meeting 3 times per year. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Shelley	6	6
R E Potts	6	6
S Booth	6	6
T Havenhand (appointed 1 June 2023)	1	1
N Judah	5	6
R Palmer	5	6

#### Conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest can be defined as any situation in which a trustee's personal interests or responsibilities they owe to another body, may, or may appear to influence the trustee's decision making. It is important that trustees, and senior staff members, can identify, avoid and manage conflicts of interest. This is to demonstrate that public funds have been used in an appropriate manner, protecting the reputations of the academy trust and its trustees and senior managers. Trustees have a duty to act in the best interests of the academy.

All trustees adhere to the Governor Code of Conduct. Section 7 of the code of conduct states:

- We will declare any business, personal or other interest that we have in connection with the governing body's business, and these will be recorded in the register of business interests.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the need arise.
- If a conflicted matter arises in a meeting, we will offer to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and any subsequent vote.
- We accept that the Register of Business Interests will be published on the school's/academy's website.
- We will act as governor/trustee; not as a representative of any group.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing body, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor/trustee and the body responsible for appointing us will be published on the school/academy website.
- We accept that information relating to governing body members will be collected and recorded on the DfE's national database (Get information about schools), some of which will be publicly available.

If a trustee is aware of an undeclared conflict of interest affecting another trustee, they should notify the other trustees or the chair. Trustees must consider any conflict of interest to prevent any potential effect on their decision making in the best interests of the trust.

All trustees complete an annual Register of Pecuniary and Personal Interests.



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Governance statement (continued)

#### Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Complying with Trust procurement processes which provide a systematic and transparent means of assessing providers with a broad definition of best value taking account of, but not solely focusing on, unit cost;
- Sharing of expertise from across the MAT to support better quality teaching and learning, creating opportunities for collaboration and research across the teacher workforce;
- Re-tendering for energy provision and moving to joint contract arrangements across the Trust;
- Improving contract management and supplier arrangements across a range of areas, including contingent workforce supply and waste management;
- Utilising secondments and short term assignments to move around expertise and reduce the need for high cost agency staff in the academies;
- Drawing on expertise advice, support and guidance from external agencies for specific areas of work where the Trust does not yet have its own substantive resource e.g. asset management;
- Being commissioned by the Department for Education to support other schools locally and nationally, through funding routes such as the Focused Support Offer and the Trust Capacity Fund (TCaF);
- Taking legal action to challenge decision making on the placement of children, where local authorities have acted outside of statutory processes.
- Nexus Multi Academy Trust continues to prioritise the safety, management and improvement of the trust's estate. The Finance & Infrastructure Committee receives regular reports covering the capital programme. This follows building condition surveys carried out on all Trust schools in 2022 by the Trust strategic assets partner, Rider Levett Bucknall. The surveys were used to consider a priority assets programme across the estate and phase 1 projects were completed in 2022/23. Those schemes were all tendered under the Trust's procurement policy to ensure value for money. To ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations, the Trust competent person, ProAktive Ltd, carry out Health & Safety Audits of every site each term. The outcomes and actions are then reported to the Audit & Risk Committee each term.

#### 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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Nexus Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Governance statement (continued)

#### The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint BHP LLP as internal auditor in 2020-21, on a 3-year contract.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the period included reviewing the financial controls operating within the Trust in order to provide reassurance to the Committee that the Trust is compliant with the ESFA guidance and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH), specifically:

- Income and expenditure testing
- Governance
- Payroll processes

Routinely, BHP LLP have reported to the board of trustees through the Audit & Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees.

BHP LLP have delivered their schedule of work as planned. After the internal audit, the auditors scheduled recommendations to improve the systems and controls in place, all of which were either implemented in the period, or are in the process of being implemented. A summary of the audit reports is included in the annual report to Trustees by the chair of the Audit & Risk Committee.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the internal auditor.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust


### Review of effectiveness


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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
.....020CC98005E490:.....  
A Child MBE  
Trustee

DocuSigned by:  
  
.....A750EDFEDEF5BA3C.....  
W Carratt  
Chief Executive Officer

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

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

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

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

DocuSigned by:



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W Carratt, Chief Executive Officer  
Accounting officer

13 December 2023

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
*Andy Child*  
029CCG98065E490.....  
A Child MBE  
Trustee

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Nexus Multi Academy Trust

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nexus Multi Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Educational and Skills Funding Agency.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

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

#### Other information (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and Strategic Report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Nexus Multi Academy Trust (continued)

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report (which includes the Strategic Report and Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 19], the Trustees (who are also directors of the Academy Trust for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

#### Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance held.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made within significant accounting estimates and judgements such as depreciation and the local government pension scheme liability.
- Testing of income, bank, purchases and payroll, systems and controls and providing conclusions on the regularity of samples chosen.
- Identification of key laws and regulations central to the academies operations and review of compliance with such laws including a review of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and correspondence with solicitors to identify any on-going litigation.
- Testing of journal entries and potential override of systems.

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. The 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.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

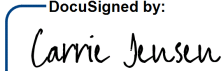
### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Nexus Multi Academy Trust (continued)

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:



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Carrie Anne Jensen ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd, Statutory Auditor

26 South Saint Marys Gate  
Grimsby  
DN31 1LW

13 December 2023



## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Nexus Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 November 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Nexus Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of Nexus Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Nexus Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 May 2016 and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Evaluating the systems and control environment
- Assessing the risk of irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance
- Ensuring that all the activities of the Academy Trust are in keeping with the academy's framework and the charitable objectives
- Obtaining representations from the Accounting Officer and Key Management Personnel

#### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Nexus Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

DocuSigned by:

*Carrie Jensen*

BDAEG37F17274BE.....

Carrie Anne Jensen ACA, Reporting Accountant

For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd, Chartered Accountants

26 South Saint Marys Gate

Grimsby

DN31 1LW

13 December 2023

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	2,003,404	(845,000)	19,092,010	20,250,414	896,689
Transfer from local authority on conversion		-	(17,000)	6,980,000	6,963,000	-
Other trading activities	4	907,073	-	-	907,073	1,100,512
Investments	5	258,672	-	-	258,672	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>25,470</u>	<u>42,404,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,430,258</u>	<u>30,944,189</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>3,194,619</u>	<u>41,542,788</u>	<u>26,072,010</u>	<u>70,809,417</u>	<u>32,941,390</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>1,277,356</u>	<u>41,407,928</u>	<u>1,919,378</u>	<u>44,604,662</u>	<u>35,958,207</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,277,356</u>	<u>41,407,928</u>	<u>1,919,378</u>	<u>44,604,662</u>	<u>35,958,207</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		1,917,263	134,860	24,152,632	26,204,755	(3,016,817)
Transfers between funds		-	(1,853,360)	1,853,360	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	<u>-</u>	<u>4,582,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,582,000</u>	<u>26,552,000</u>
Net movement in funds		1,917,263	2,863,500	26,005,992	30,786,755	23,535,183
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		<u>2,851,602</u>	<u>(2,436,544)</u>	<u>53,295,592</u>	<u>53,710,650</u>	<u>30,175,467</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>4,768,865</u>	<u>426,956</u>	<u>79,301,584</u>	<u>84,497,405</u>	<u>53,710,650</u>

Comparative figures are stated on page 26.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	49,238	-	847,451	896,689
Other trading activities	4	1,100,512	-	-	1,100,512
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>12,081</u>	<u>30,932,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,944,189</u>
Total		1,161,831	30,932,108	847,451	32,941,390
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>450,572</u>	<u>34,168,911</u>	<u>1,338,724</u>	<u>35,958,207</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		711,259	(3,236,803)	(491,273)	(3,016,817)
Transfers between funds		(10,500)	(218,342)	228,842	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	<u>-</u>	<u>26,552,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,552,000</u>
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		700,759	23,096,855	(262,431)	23,535,183
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		<u>2,150,843</u>	<u>(25,533,399)</u>	<u>53,558,023</u>	<u>30,175,467</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022		<u><u>2,851,602</u></u>	<u><u>(2,436,544)</u></u>	<u><u>53,295,592</u></u>	<u><u>53,710,650</u></u>

**Nexus Multi Academy Trust**  
**(Registration number: 10075893)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	76,297,747	52,295,317
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	3,288,796	1,810,074
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>8,731,270</u>	<u>6,073,323</u>
		12,020,066	7,883,397
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,775,899)</u>	<u>(2,898,938)</u>
Net current assets		<u>8,244,167</u>	<u>4,984,459</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		84,541,914	57,279,776
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	<u>(44,509)</u>	<u>(55,126)</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		84,497,405	57,224,650
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,514,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b><u>84,497,405</u></b>	<b><u>53,710,650</u></b>
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund	16	426,956	1,077,456
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	79,301,584	53,295,592
Pension reserve	16	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,514,000)</u>
		79,728,540	50,859,048
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund	16	<u>4,768,865</u>	<u>2,851,602</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>84,497,405</u></b>	<b><u>53,710,650</u></b>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 58 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 020CCG98065E490.....  
 A Child MBE  
 Trustee

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	9,240,070	734,275
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(6,571,507)	(312,407)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	<u>(10,616)</u>	<u>(10,620)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		2,657,947	411,248
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>6,073,323</u>	<u>5,662,075</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	23	<u><u>8,731,270</u></u>	<u><u>6,073,323</u></u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

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

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### General Information

The academy trust is a public benefit entity set up as a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The address of its registered office is:

Hilltop School  
Larch Road  
Maltby  
Rotherham  
South Yorkshire  
S66 8AZ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 13 December 2023.

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

##### Basis of preparation

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

These financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company and have been rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements cover the individual entity, Nexus Multi Academy Trust.

Nexus Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 102.

##### Going concern

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

##### Income

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

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Grants*

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are spent on capital projects in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. 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 academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the 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 period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

##### *Transfer on conversion*

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

##### *Transfer of existing academies into the trust*

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

##### *Donated fixed assets*

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### **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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### ***Expenditure on raising funds***

This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

##### ***Charitable activities***

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

##### **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/reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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.

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Leasehold improvements	2% straight line
ICT equipment	25% straight line
Fixture and fittings	10% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

##### **Liabilities**

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

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Leased assets

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

##### Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at transaction price less any provision for impairment. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

##### Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 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.

##### Pension benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on 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 academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

##### Fund accounting

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

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

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

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

##### Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans include those payable to a third party which are interest free or below market interest rates and are made to advance charitable purposes. All loans are measured at cost, less impairment.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Other voluntary income</b>					
Transfer from academy trust on conversion	1,977,852	(845,000)	16,307,813	17,440,665	-
Capital grants	-	-	2,784,197	2,784,197	847,451
Other donations	25,552	-	-	25,552	49,238
	<u>2,003,404</u>	<u>(845,000)</u>	<u>19,092,010</u>	<u>20,250,414</u>	<u>896,689</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Educational operations</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	15,524,984	15,524,984	13,003,078
Pupil Premium	-	974,363	974,363	749,186
Other DfE group grants	-	2,473,673	2,473,673	360,824
	<u>-</u>	<u>18,973,020</u>	<u>18,973,020</u>	<u>14,113,088</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	22,670,474	22,670,474	16,337,409
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>				
Other income	25,470	-	25,470	12,081
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Catch-up premium	-	538,010	538,010	160,208
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	223,284	223,284	321,403
	<u>-</u>	<u>761,294</u>	<u>761,294</u>	<u>481,611</u>
Total grants	<u>25,470</u>	<u>42,404,788</u>	<u>42,430,258</u>	<u>30,944,189</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 4 Other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>2022/23 Total £</b>	<b>2021/22 Total £</b>
Hire of facilities	57,043	57,043	56,296
Catering income	144,867	144,867	114,109
Insurance income	500	500	31,761
Other income	600,531	600,531	801,221
Transport Services	104,132	104,132	97,125
	<u>907,073</u>	<u>907,073</u>	<u>1,100,512</u>

#### 5 Investment income

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2022/23 Total £</b>
Short term deposits	258,672	258,672

#### 6 Expenditure

	<b>Non Pay Expenditure</b>			<b>2022/23 Total £</b>	<b>2021/22 Total £</b>
	<b>Staff costs £</b>	<b>Premises £</b>	<b>Other costs £</b>		
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	31,020,663	-	2,076,218	33,096,881	24,002,885
Allocated support costs	4,033,172	5,179,382	2,295,227	11,507,781	11,955,322
	<u>35,053,835</u>	<u>5,179,382</u>	<u>4,371,445</u>	<u>44,604,662</u>	<u>35,958,207</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 6 Expenditure (continued)

##### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	110,315	86,473
Depreciation	1,919,758	1,280,471
Fees payable to auditor - audit	23,100	21,000
Fees payable to auditor - other audit services	4,125	5,250
	4,125	5,250

#### 7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	33,096,881	24,002,885
Support costs - educational operations	11,507,781	8,587,322
	44,604,662	32,590,207

	Educational operations £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	4,033,172	4,033,172	6,252,578
Depreciation	1,919,758	1,919,758	1,280,471
Technology costs	241,557	241,557	172,359
Premises costs	3,259,624	3,259,624	2,362,082
Other support costs	2,005,649	2,005,649	1,851,175
Governance costs	48,021	48,021	36,657
Total support costs	11,507,781	11,507,781	11,955,322

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 8 Staff

##### Staff costs

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	25,947,205	19,321,922
Social security costs	2,304,275	1,703,333
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	5,486,322	6,957,761
	33,737,802	27,983,016
Supply staff costs	1,173,413	788,574
Staff restructuring costs	142,620	61,549
	35,053,835	28,833,139
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>

##### Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	142,620	61,549
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##### Severance payments

The Academy trust paid 21 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2022/23	2021/22
0 - £25,000	21	6
£25,001 - £50,000	-	1
	21	7

##### Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £23,120 (2022: £61,549).

Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £8,400

Non-contractual payments £9,500

Non-contractual payments £1,220

Non-contractual payments £2,000

Non-contractual payments £2,000

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 8 Staff (continued)

##### Staff numbers

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

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Teachers	238	179
Administration and support	846	695
Management	64	50
	1,148	924

##### Higher paid staff

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

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	11	11
£70,001 - £80,000	12	5
£80,001 - £90,000	3	1
£90,001 - £100,000	2	2
£100,001 - £110,000	3	2
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
	1	1

##### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,265,047 (2022: £1,548,826).



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 9 Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Leadership and Management functions to ensure compliance with statutory guidance (inc. salary costs of Accounting Officer and Chief Financial Officer);
- Human Resources consultancy;
- Information Governance oversight (Data Protection Officer);
- Academy broadband provision;
- Financial internal and external audit costs;
- Governance recruitment, support and development;
- Clerking services;
- Health & Safety compliance (including "Competent Person" function);
- Legal services;
- Safeguarding external audit and review;
- Clinical supervision for Designated Safeguarding Leads;
- Strategic support for negotiations with commissioners and business case writing to secure growth and development of academies;
- School improvement and support (including leadership intervention where required);
- Teaching School Alliance Membership

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- Flat percentage of GAG and SEN income (5%).

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Abbey School	176,752	203,844
Bader School	168,326	126,037
Beech Academy	101,646	-
Becton School	213,681	132,520
Coppice School	175,595	153,150
Crags Community School	108,278	63,733
Discovery Academy	105,571	-
Fountaindale School	115,331	-
Heatherwood School	150,438	130,383
Hilltop School	166,609	167,310
Kelford School	162,425	178,810
Kenwood Academy	110,108	-
North Ridge Community School	170,591	155,588
Pennine View School	149,122	139,702
	2,074,473	1,451,077

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have been paid remuneration or received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to no trustees (2022 - £nil).

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

#### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	2022/23 Total £
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 September 2022	50,156,714	4,191,856	345,257	784,531	923,516	132,108	56,533,982
Additions	7,390,192	263,841	1,242,391	154,805	518,708	44,439	9,614,376
Inherited assets	<u>15,904,702</u>	<u>59,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,369</u>	<u>230,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,307,812</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>73,451,608</u>	<u>4,514,888</u>	<u>1,587,648</u>	<u>1,052,705</u>	<u>1,672,774</u>	<u>176,547</u>	<u>82,456,170</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 September 2022	3,198,323	250,371	-	207,121	499,216	83,634	4,238,665
Charge for the year	<u>1,303,586</u>	<u>87,597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,575</u>	<u>384,368</u>	<u>36,632</u>	<u>1,919,758</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>4,501,909</u>	<u>337,968</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>314,696</u>	<u>883,584</u>	<u>120,266</u>	<u>6,158,423</u>
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 August 2023	<u>68,949,699</u>	<u>4,176,920</u>	<u>1,587,648</u>	<u>738,009</u>	<u>789,190</u>	<u>56,281</u>	<u>76,297,747</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>46,958,391</u>	<u>3,941,485</u>	<u>345,257</u>	<u>577,410</u>	<u>424,300</u>	<u>48,474</u>	<u>52,295,317</u>

Included within leasehold land and buildings is land of £7,826,745 (2022: £6,051,045) which is not being depreciated.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	889,056	665,564
VAT recoverable	134,001	242,156
Other debtors	6,128	3,078
Prepayments and accrued income	2,259,611	899,276
	3,288,796	1,810,074

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	217,677	404,001
Other taxation and social security	515,060	609,816
Government loans	10,619	10,619
Other creditors	5,676	296
Accruals	1,593,904	1,018,404
Deferred income	826,112	624,896
Pension scheme creditor	606,851	230,906
	3,775,899	2,898,938

Included within government loans is the portion of the long term SALIX and CIF loans which fall due within the following year. The terms of the loan have been discussed in more detail in the following note.

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	624,896	548,971
Resources deferred in the period	826,112	624,896
Amounts released from previous periods	(624,896)	(548,971)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	826,112	624,896

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Special Educational Needs funding, Universal Infant Free School Meals funding, start up grants and improvement funding for the next academic year.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	44,509	55,126

Loans of £55,128 from SALIX and CIF which is provided on the following terms:

Included within government loans is the long term portion of the following loans from SALIX, a not for profit organisation funded by The Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Kelford School received a loan as part of the Condition Improvement Funding grant. The loan is an interest free loan, repayments commenced on 1 March 2020. Repayments of £604 will be made twice a year for 8 years until the loan is fully repaid.

Hilltop School received a loan as part of the Condition Improvement Funding Grant. The loan is an interest free loan, repayments commenced on 1 September 2019. Repayments of £745 will be made twice a year for 8 years until the loan is fully repaid.

Heatherwood School received a loan as part of the Energy Efficiency Loans programme. The loan is an interest free loan, repayments commenced pre-conversion on 1 June 2019. Repayments of £1,646 will be made twice a year for 7 years until the loan is fully repaid.

Included within government loans is also the long term portion of the following loans from ESFA under the Condition Improvement Fund.

Hilltop School received a loan as part of the Condition Improvement Funding grant. The loan has an interest rate of 2.29%, with repayments commencing 1 September 2020. Repayments of £144 will be made monthly for 10 years until the loan is fully repaid.

Coppice School received loans as part of the Condition Improvement Funding grant. The loan has an interest rate of 1.95%, with repayments commencing 1 September 2021. Repayments of £287 will be made monthly for 10 years until the loan is fully repaid.

The amount repayable by instalments which falls due after more than five years is £19,556.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,077,456	15,524,984	(14,322,124)	(1,853,360)	426,956
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	3,234,967	(3,234,967)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	974,363	(974,363)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	22,670,474	(22,670,474)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	<u>1,077,456</u>	<u>42,404,788</u>	<u>(41,201,928)</u>	<u>(1,853,360)</u>	<u>426,956</u>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	39,891,631	23,287,813	(1,211,536)	-	61,967,908
DfE group capital grants and donations	12,188,995	1,581,651	(223,016)	-	13,547,630
Capital expenditure from GAG	683,817	-	(395,782)	1,853,360	2,141,395
Local authority capital funding	507,649	992,055	(89,044)	-	1,410,660
Private sector capital sponsorship	23,500	210,491	-	-	233,991
Total restricted fixed asset funds	<u>53,295,592</u>	<u>26,072,010</u>	<u>(1,919,378)</u>	<u>1,853,360</u>	<u>79,301,584</u>
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	<u>(3,514,000)</u>	<u>(862,000)</u>	<u>(206,000)</u>	<u>4,582,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>50,859,048</u>	<u>67,614,798</u>	<u>(43,327,306)</u>	<u>4,582,000</u>	<u>79,728,540</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	<u>2,851,602</u>	<u>3,194,619</u>	<u>(1,277,356)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,768,865</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>2,851,602</u>	<u>3,194,619</u>	<u>(1,277,356)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,768,865</u>
Total funds	<u>53,710,650</u>	<u>70,809,417</u>	<u>(44,604,662)</u>	<u>4,582,000</u>	<u>84,497,405</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	988,118	13,003,078	(12,695,398)	(218,342)	1,077,456
Other DfE / ESFA grants	86,802	530,517	(617,319)	-	-
Pupil Premium	21,031	749,186	(770,217)	-	-
Sports Premium	21,485	151,710	(173,195)	-	-
Covid catch-up Premium	47,165	160,208	(207,373)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	16,337,409	(16,337,409)	-	-
<b>Total restricted general funds</b>	<b>1,164,601</b>	<b>30,932,108</b>	<b>(30,800,911)</b>	<b>(218,342)</b>	<b>1,077,456</b>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	40,680,295	-	(788,664)	-	39,891,631
DfE group capital grants and donations	11,897,422	739,551	(447,978)	-	12,188,995
Capital expenditure from GAG	537,973	-	(82,998)	228,842	683,817
Local authority capital funding	418,406	107,900	(18,657)	-	507,649
Private sector capital sponsorship	23,927	-	(427)	-	23,500
<b>Total restricted fixed asset funds</b>	<b>53,558,023</b>	<b>847,451</b>	<b>(1,338,724)</b>	<b>228,842</b>	<b>53,295,592</b>
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(26,698,000)	-	(3,368,000)	26,552,000	(3,514,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>28,024,624</b>	<b>31,779,559</b>	<b>(35,507,635)</b>	<b>26,562,500</b>	<b>50,859,048</b>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	2,150,843	1,161,831	(450,572)	(10,500)	2,851,602
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>2,150,843</b>	<b>1,161,831</b>	<b>(450,572)</b>	<b>(10,500)</b>	<b>2,851,602</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>30,175,467</b>	<b>32,941,390</b>	<b>(35,958,207)</b>	<b>26,552,000</b>	<b>53,710,650</b>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

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

##### General Annual Grant

The General Annual Grant (GAG) funds have been spent in line with the terms of the Master Funding Agreement. Under this funding agreement, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

##### Pupil Premium

All children eligible for Pupil Premium have a personalised pupil premium plan, linked to their individual needs to ensure that the grant funding is spent appropriately and this can be evidenced by improved outcomes for children and young people.

##### Other DfE/ESFA

This includes Universal Infant Free School Meals (UNIFSM), Free Schools Grants and the PE and Sports grant.

Universal Infant Free School Meals is funding for the provision of free school meals to infant pupils.

The Free Schools Grant is to cover the costs involved with project management of two Free Schools.

The PE and Sports grant is to support the sporting facilities of the academy.

For Craggs Community School, as a maintained school;

Teachers' Pay Grant provides funding for schools to support the teachers' pay award which came into effect 1 September 2018.

Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant supports schools and local authorities with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

##### Other government grants

This includes pupil premium funding and special educational needs funding from Local Authorities.

Pupil Premium from the Local Authority is for out of authority children. All out of authority children eligible for Pupil Premium have a personalised plan, linked to their individual learning needs to ensure that the grant funding is spent appropriately and that this can be evidenced by improved outcomes for children and young people. Local Governing Bodies scrutinise the use of pupil premium in each Nexus Academy, in line with the grant conditions.

SEN top-up funding features as a significant element of Nexus Academies revenue, given the schools are all, excluding Craggs Community School, designated special educational needs settings. Each Local Authority uses different banding systems for SEN, with different funding packages provided dependent on a child's level of need as defined in their Education Health & Care Plan (or their Statement of Special Educational Needs). SEN funding is largely used to cover human resource costs in Nexus academies for teaching and non-teaching staff, though other services are also funded where a child's personalised plan dictates e.g. Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy etc.

For Nexus Academies, excluding Craggs Community, as designated special educational needs funding predominately from the Local Authority;

Teachers' Pay Grant provides funding for schools to support the teachers' pay award which came into effect 1 September 2018.

Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant supports schools and local authorities with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

##### Other restricted funds

Other restricted funds include restricted grants and donations, including parental contributions for the extended services provision,

##### Restricted fixed asset funds

Restricted fixed asset funds are used solely for capital purchases in line with the strategic objectives of the academy. A total of £1,853,360 (2022: £228,842) has been transferred from revenue funds to the restricted fixed asset fund, as permitted by the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

##### Pension reserve

The restricted pension fund is in deficit to the value of £nil (2022: £3,514,000) as at 31 August 2023. A significant proportion of this has been inherited upon conversion to Academy status. The trustees will continue to monitor this situation closely.

##### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Abbey School	172,119	588,562
Becton School	196,853	57,037
Bader School	95,417	154,729
Beech Academy	171,857	-
Coppice School	2,213	93,446
Crags Community School	11,000	980
Discovery Academy	7,365	-
Fountaindale School	155,139	-
Heatherwood School	268,549	294,608
Hilltop School	(136,806)	52,192
Kelford School	292,444	181,335
Kenwood Academy	355,409	-
North Ridge Community School	342,759	406,036
Pennine View School	58,052	148,662
Central services	<u>3,203,451</u>	<u>1,951,471</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	5,195,821	3,929,058
Restricted fixed asset funds	79,301,584	53,295,592
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,514,000)</u>
Total	<u><u>84,497,405</u></u>	<u><u>53,710,650</u></u>

Hilltop School is carrying a net deficit of £136,806 as a result of increasing staffing cost pressures linked to the underfunded specific needs of a small number of current pupils.

The trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The school has made staffing structure changes to mitigate this, and the Trust has secured an increase in income through growth. Trust reserves are being used to underwrite the deficit whilst the school implements its deficit recovery plan, so that a return to a surplus position is achieved over the medium term in a sustainable way that secures value for money in the short term.



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

##### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £</b>	<b>Educational supplies £</b>	<b>Other costs (excluding depreciation) £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Abbey School	2,729,310	293,096	57,985	642,929	3,723,320
Bader School	1,762,079	123,061	54,180	340,733	2,280,053
Becton School	2,118,121	130,260	14,026	324,121	2,586,528
Beech Academy	1,683,037	181,452	54,331	257,222	2,176,042
Coppice School	2,287,826	184,824	80,395	465,867	3,018,912
Crags Community School	1,655,802	123,554	40,263	841,209	2,660,828
Discovery Academy	1,041,302	120,131	40,863	257,466	1,459,762
Fountaindale School	2,196,696	200,890	37,322	362,392	2,797,300
Heatherwood School	1,572,746	208,154	10,308	334,973	2,126,181
Hilltop School	3,521,329	274,122	26,718	519,379	4,341,548
Kelford School	3,012,090	277,324	39,284	598,942	3,927,640
Kenwood Academy	2,338,783	174,243	41,435	501,392	3,055,853
North Ridge Community School	2,142,525	194,220	18,894	365,235	2,720,874
Pennine View School	1,901,967	220,940	20,132	362,483	2,505,522
Central services	1,057,050	1,298,901	8,976	733,613	3,098,540
Academy Trust	<u>31,020,663</u>	<u>4,005,172</u>	<u>545,112</u>	<u>6,907,956</u>	<u>42,478,903</u>

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £</b>	<b>Educational supplies £</b>	<b>Other costs (excluding depreciation) £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Abbey School	2,452,515	283,243	121,768	447,725	3,305,251
Bader School	1,506,695	118,669	40,891	249,980	1,916,235
Becton School	3,403,611	254,691	67,483	530,679	4,256,464
Coppice School	2,077,235	183,885	57,546	319,117	2,637,783
Crags Community School	1,569,829	159,432	67,410	719,449	2,516,120
Heatherwood School	1,400,407	184,979	30,064	284,335	1,899,785
Hilltop School	3,215,007	319,383	51,547	474,212	4,060,149
Kelford School	2,812,257	379,654	44,694	545,582	3,782,187
North Ridge Community School	2,062,983	190,641	48,103	352,869	2,654,596
Pennine View School	1,772,928	253,583	53,691	294,972	2,375,174
Central services	307,094	1,034,418	18,961	545,519	1,905,992
Academy Trust	<u>22,580,561</u>	<u>3,362,578</u>	<u>602,158</u>	<u>4,764,439</u>	<u>31,309,736</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	76,297,747	76,297,747
Current assets	4,768,865	4,192,236	3,058,965	12,020,066
Current liabilities	-	(3,765,280)	(10,619)	(3,775,899)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(44,509)	(44,509)
Total net assets	<u>4,768,865</u>	<u>426,956</u>	<u>79,301,584</u>	<u>84,497,405</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	52,295,317	52,295,317
Current assets	2,851,602	3,965,775	1,066,020	7,883,397
Current liabilities	-	(2,888,319)	(10,619)	(2,898,938)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(55,126)	(55,126)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,514,000)	-	(3,514,000)
Total net assets	<u>2,851,602</u>	<u>(2,436,544)</u>	<u>53,295,592</u>	<u>53,710,650</u>

#### 18 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>2,663,308</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

##### *Operating leases*

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	94,051	110,315
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>243,831</u>	<u>298,700</u>
	<u>337,882</u>	<u>409,015</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases (continued)

##### *Private Finance Initiative commitments*

At 31 August 2023 the academy trust was committed to making annual payments under PFI arrangements as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	606,254	555,596
Amounts due between one and five years	2,537,267	2,347,692
Amounts due after five years	68,176,421	63,313,068
	<u>71,319,942</u>	<u>66,216,356</u>

The Academy premises for Craggs Community School is subject to a PFI contract. The contract covers the cost of managing the facilities including utility costs, repairs and maintenance, caretaking, grounds maintenance and cleaning. The contract expires in October 2143.

#### 20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Net income/(expenditure)	26,204,755	(3,016,817)
Depreciation	1,919,758	1,280,471
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,784,197)	(847,451)
Interest receivable	(258,672)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	862,000	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	28,000	2,890,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	178,000	478,000
Decrease in stocks	-	1,408
Increase in debtors	(1,478,722)	(792,145)
Increase in creditors	876,961	740,809
Fixed assets transferred on conversion from Academy Trust	(16,307,813)	-
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>9,240,070</u>	<u>734,275</u>

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(10,616)	(10,620)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(10,616)</u>	<u>(10,620)</u>

#### 22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	258,672	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(9,614,376)	(1,159,858)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	2,784,197	847,451
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(6,571,507)</u>	<u>(312,407)</u>

#### 23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	8,731,270	6,073,323
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>8,731,270</u>	<u>6,073,323</u>

#### 24 Member liability

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

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £606,821 (2022 - £230,906) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

##### Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 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 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% 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 £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £2,843,338 (2022: £2,088,155).

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

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

##### Local government pension schemes South Yorkshire Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £3,010,000 (2022 - £2,512,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £2,292,000 (2022 - £1,930,000) and employees' contributions totalled £718,000 (2022 - £582,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.8 per cent for employers and 5.9 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by South Yorkshire Pension Fund.

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

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.30

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	20.60	22.60
Females retiring today	23.60	25.40
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.40	24.10
Females retiring in 20 years	25.00	27.30
<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	(769,000)	(786,000)
1 year increase in member life expectancy	1,168,000	1,145,000
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	105,000	183,000
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate (CPI)	679,000	608,000

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equities	20,633,070	17,573,500
Government bonds	6,279,630	5,021,000
Property	2,691,270	2,259,450
Cash and other liquid assets	299,030	251,050
Total market value of assets	29,903,000	25,105,000

The actual return on scheme assets was (£748,000) (2022 - (£410,000)).

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	(2,258,000)	(4,820,000)
Interest income	1,133,000	413,000
Interest cost	<u>(1,282,000)</u>	<u>(891,000)</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(2,407,000)</u>	<u>(5,298,000)</u>

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At start of period	28,619,000	49,841,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	238,000	-
Current service cost	2,258,000	4,820,000
Interest cost	1,282,000	891,000
Employee contributions	718,000	582,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(3,617,000)	(27,375,000)
Benefits paid	<u>(287,000)</u>	<u>(140,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>29,211,000</u>	<u>28,619,000</u>

##### Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At start of period	25,105,000	23,143,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	221,000	-
Interest income	1,133,000	413,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	721,000	(823,000)
Employer contributions	2,292,000	1,930,000
Employee contributions	718,000	582,000
Benefits paid	(287,000)	(140,000)
Asset ceiling restriction	<u>(692,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August	<u>29,211,000</u>	<u>25,105,000</u>

##### Nottinghamshire Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £454,000 (2022 - £Nil), of which employer's contributions totalled £356,000 (2022 - £Nil) and employees' contributions totalled £98,000 (2022 - £Nil). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.8 per cent for employers and 6.4 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Nottinghamshire Pension Fund.

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

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

	<b>2023</b> %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.30</u>

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

	<b>2023</b>
<b>Retiring today</b>	
Males retiring today	20.40
Females retiring today	23.20
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>	
Males retiring in 20 years	21.70
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>24.60</u>

##### Sensitivity analysis

	<b>2023</b> £
0.1% increase in Real Discount Rate	249,000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	269,000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	268,000
1 year decrease in member life expectancy	250,000
0.1% increase in Salary Increase Rate	259,000
0.1% decrease in Salary Increase Rate	258,000
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	269,000
0.1% decrease in the Pension Increase Rate	<u>249,000</u>

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>2023</b> £
Equities	3,863,000
Gilts	122,000
Other bonds	346,000
Property	726,000
Cash and other liquid assets	381,000
Inflation plus	304,000
Infrastructure	<u>488,000</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>6,230,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £4,000 (2022 - £Nil).



## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	<b>2022/23</b> £
Current service cost	416,000
Interest income	(155,000)
Interest cost	184,000
	<u>445,000</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>445,000</u>

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

	<b>2022/23</b> £
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	4,309,000
Current service cost	416,000
Interest cost	184,000
Employee contributions	98,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	620,000
Benefits paid	(72,000)
	<u>5,555,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>5,555,000</u>

##### Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	<b>2022/23</b> £
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	3,464,000
Interest income	155,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	2,231,000
Employer contributions	356,000
Employee contributions	98,000
Benefits paid	(74,000)
Asset ceiling restriction	(675,000)
	<u>5,555,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>5,555,000</u>

## **Nexus Multi Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### **26 Related party transactions**

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

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 27 Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust

##### Beech Academy

	<b>Value reported by transferring academy trust £</b>	<b>Transfer in recognised £</b>
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Leasehold land and buildings	7,930,447	7,930,447
Leasehold improvements	59,191	59,191
Furniture and equipment	10,936	10,936
Computer equipment	112,896	112,896
	8,113,470	8,113,470
<b>Other assets</b>		
Cash in bank and in hand	988,926	988,926
<b>Pensions</b>		
Pensions – pension scheme liabilities	(422,500)	(422,500)
Net assets	8,679,896	8,679,896

##### Fountaindale School

	<b>Value reported by transferring academy trust £</b>	<b>Transfer in recognised £</b>
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Leasehold land and buildings	7,974,255	7,974,255
Furniture and equipment	102,433	102,433
Computer equipment	117,654	117,654
	8,194,342	8,194,342
<b>Other assets</b>		
Cash in bank and in hand	988,926	988,926
<b>Pensions</b>		
Pensions – pension scheme liabilities	(422,500)	(422,500)
Net assets	8,760,768	8,760,768

## Nexus Multi Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 28 Academy trust with a newly converted academy

On 1 September 2022 the Discovery Academy converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Nexus Multi Academy Trust from the Sheffield Local Authority for £Nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

	<b>Restricted general fund £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset fund £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Tangible fixed assets			
Leasehold land and buildings	-	6,980,000	6,980,000
LGPS pension deficit	<u>(17,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,000)</u>
Net (liabilities)/assets	<u><u>(17,000)</u></u>	<u><u>6,980,000</u></u>	<u><u>6,963,000</u></u>

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