

Company registration number 08277622 (England and Wales)

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

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JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

L Culkin
L Kennedy
B Middleton
K Barrass

Trustees

H Akien (Trustee)
W Angus (Accounting Officer)
Dr A A Jackson
K F Hern (Resigned 31 March 2024)
G Batten
L Lavelle
D Green
S A Green
L Hill

Senior management team

- CEO/Principal Fulwell Infant School
- Principal Ouston Primary School
- Finance Director

W Angus
L Lavelle
T Hope

Company registration number

08277622 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Ebdon Lane
Fulwell
Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR6 8ED
United Kingdom

Academies operated

Fulwell Infant School Academy
Ouston Primary School

Location

Sunderland
Chester-Le-Street

Principal

W Angus
L Lavelle

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
5th Floor
102 Grey Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Tyne And Wear
NE1 6AG
United Kingdom

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Newton's
Martin House
13 High Street
Stokesley
North Yorkshire
TS9 5AD
United Kingdom

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustee's report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates 2 academies one for pupils aged 3 to 7 serving a catchment area in Sunderland North and one for pupils aged 3 to 11 in Chester le Street County Durham. The combined total number of pupils on roll is 602 as at the last census in May 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no capital share (registration number 08277622) and an exempt charity under the Academies Act 2010. The company commenced operation as Fulwell Infant School Academy on 1st December 2012 and became a multi academy trust (Jigsaw Learning Trust) on the 1st September 2017. Fulwell Infant School Academy is the lead school. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. Directors of the charitable company are nominated by either the Secretary of State for Education or by the members.

The trustees of the Academy are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Jigsaw Learning Trust.

There are three layers of governance:-

- Members (who control the strategic direction of the Trust and appoint Trustees)
- Trustees (who are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management and operation of the Trust led by the CEO)
- Local Governing Bodies (who guide, support and monitor the work of the academies in school improvement and education)

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

A Trustee may benefit from any indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust'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 any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust: Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or 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 Academy Trust.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The Governing Body comprises three categories of governor as set out in the Articles of Association. The Articles of Association of the Academy state that Members may appoint up to 9 Trustees.

Members may appoint Staff Trustees through such process as they may determine, provided that the total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act a Trustee who are employees of the Academy Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. The Head teacher is treated as an ex officio Trustee.

Parent Trustees shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A parent governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time they are elected. Any election of Parent Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.

The arrangements made for the election of a Parent Trustee shall provide for every person who is entitled to vote in the election to have an opportunity to do so by post, or if preferred their ballot paper returned to the Academy Trust by a registered pupil.

Where a vacancy for a Parent Trustee is required to be filled by election, the Governing Body shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that every person known to be a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that they are entitled to stand as a candidate, and given every opportunity to do so.

Trustees may appoint up to 3 Co-opted Trustees, a Co-opted Trustee means a person who is appointed to be a Trustee by being Co-opted by Trustees who have not themselves been so appointed.

The term of office for any Trustees shall be 4 years, subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected. The Secretary of State may also appoint additional Trustees if he feels it appropriate and ultimately has the power to in effect take over the Governance of the Academy.

The following categories set out the broad range of skills, knowledge or prior experiences that is expected to be held across the trust.

- Leadership
- Education Performance and Curriculum
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Business
- Legal

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New Trustees and Governors will be given a tour of the Academies and the chance to meet staff and pupils with a view to ensuring the Trustee/Governor has a good understanding of the Academy Trust's philosophy and its day-to-day operation. Trustee and Local Governor Training is taken very seriously by the Trust.

The Trust's CEO provides a regular educational update on topical matters for Trustees and Governors. Members are encouraged to participate in training programmes and courses arranged by the Academies. Specific training is provided on technical issues to keep Trustees and Governors updated on all relevant developments affecting their role and responsibilities.

All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies

New trustees are provided with an induction pack and are issued with a copy of the Code of Practice for Members of the Governing Body which covers the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles) which are:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Trustees should focus on three core functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance

Under normal circumstances Trustees attend 'Introduction to Governor' training and other courses relevant to their specific areas of interest and the committees they wish to sit on or wish to join. Trustees are invited to attend staff training days where subjects covered are relevant. This is in addition to regular communications from the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team, ensuring trustees are kept up to date on the latest developments.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Organisational structure

The management structure of the Trust consists of the MAT Board membership, Directors and Local Governing Bodies, specific committees and the Senior Leadership Teams in each school.

The Directors fulfil a strategic role: setting general policy, approving an annual Trust plan and budget, monitoring performance against the plan and budget and making decisions about the Trustees of the charitable company, capital expenditure and the Senior Leadership Team appointments across the Trust. The CEO is the Accounting Officer. The board delegates a number of monitoring and evaluation functions to the Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) at each academy. Each Local Governing Body (LGB) reviews annual improvement plans and budgets and recommends these to the board of trustees, monitors academy performance and oversees parent and community relationships.

Trustees are responsible for the proper stewardship of trust funds and for ensuring economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use – the three key elements of value for money. It must also ensure that it uses its discretion reasonably, and takes into account any and all relevant guidance on accountability or propriety.

Trustees have delegated the day to day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer they have specific responsibilities for financial matters and is personally responsible to Parliament and the Accounting Officer of the ESFA. They have a personal responsibility for Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

These are the following committees:

- Finance & Premises – meets on a termly basis and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements.
- Personnel Committee – meets on a termly basis or as and when required ensuring that all procedures relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of all staff in school meet statutory and safeguarding requirements. Approve and keep under review all HR related policies of the academy.
- Standards Committee – meets on a termly basis to monitor, evaluate and review academy policy, practice and performance in relation to curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment. To ensure the curriculum meets statutory requirements, to monitor the impact of curriculum planning and policies on pupil progress with particular reference to individual groups
- The following committees meet as required: Admissions, Appeals, Performance Management and Complaints.

Governance structure is illustrated below:

Mat Board Members

Directors/Trustees

Finance/Audit & Premises Committee, Personnel Committee, Standards Committee

Fulwell Infant LGB

Ouston Primary LGB

The Academy has a leadership structure which consists of the Trustees, the CEO, Senior Leadership (SLT) and Senior Management Team (SMT). The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

(At the end of 2023-24 academic year the Trust has 1 member vacancy and 1 director vacancy on its board).

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academy Trust is committed to taking all relevant decisions in accordance with the principles of public life as listed in DFE guidance (namely objectivity, openness and accountability).

The pay and remuneration of the Trust CEO and School Senior Leadership Teams is reviewed and agreed by the Trust Pay & Personnel Committee annually linked to performance management targets and appraisal.

Decisions relating to pay will at all times be made with reference to achievement against performance objectives, standards and career stage expectations.

Trustees will annually review the salaries of the members of the Leadership Group in accordance with Trust Policy and paragraph 11 of the STCPD. All decisions regarding pay progression will be related to the individual's performance and appraisal reports.

Where the evidence demonstrates sustained high quality of performance, Trustees will consider the award of one point. Where the evidence shows exceptional performance, Trustees may consider the use of its flexibilities to pay enhanced pay progression up to the maximum of two additional points.

In accordance with paragraph 10 of the STCPD, Trustees will consider awarding an additional payment to the Principal only for clearly temporary responsibilities or duties that are in addition to the post for which the salary has been determined. External independent advice will be sought before deciding whether or not to proceed.

Staff Governors, the CEO and Academy Principles receive remuneration in respect of services they provide in their capacity as an employee under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as a trustee.

The Academy Trust recognises that while trustees are volunteers, they do incur costs in the course of carrying out their duties. Allowances may only be paid if the costs are wholly and necessarily incurred in carrying out their duties as a governor or representative of the academy (mainly travelling expenses).

Trade union facility time

The Trust recognises the right of Trade Unions to represent and protect the interests of their members both individually and collectively and has signed a Trade Union Recognition Agreement. We purchase Trade Union Facility time as part of a service level agreement but currently do not have any members of staff acting as trade union representatives as part of the Trust.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Trustees and Senior Leadership Team members are required to declare any business or related interests that may impact on the academy trust. The adopted policy is that if interests are declared then the relevant party will remove themselves from the decision making process. A register of pecuniary interests is published on the trust's website, and further information is held on file at each relevant academy.

For the period ending 31st August 2024, 9 trustees declared connections to organisations or related party relationships.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objective and of the charitable company is the operation of Jigsaw Learning Trust is 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 the academies within the Trust by offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction by holding the principals to account for the educational performance of the school and its' pupils. Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure its money is well spent.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy Trust's principal activities are to provide each child with an education that will equip them to become responsible citizens, to make informed choices having both self-respect and respect for others. In addition to this we firmly believe in providing all children with a wide range of opportunities, sporting, musical, cultural, recreational and social. Our mission is to create a safe, stimulating and happy learning environment within which every child is able to realise their potential.

In order to achieve this, we will:

- Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, with an emphasis on the core subjects that supports the development of every child towards fulfilling their potential
- Encourage children to be respectful, compassionate and honest in all their relationships
- Encourage children to develop an understanding and respect of individual differences
- Consistently apply our policies in support of the above.
- Develop the partnership with all Parents and the community in the life of the Academies
- Create and maintain good links with our Junior School and feeder schools to provide a seamless education for our children.
- Provide opportunities for personal and professional development for all who work for the Trust.
- To raise the standards of educational achievement of all pupils
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements
- To conduct Trust business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

As trustees of a charity, academy trustees must comply with the following duties:

Compliance – they must ensure that the charity's resources are used for the charitable purpose and that the charity complies with the law and its governing document i.e. the Articles of Association.

Trustees have reviewed and adopted the following policies relating to Finance, HR and Governance during the period 2023-2024.

- Scheme of Delegation
- Academy Financial Handbook
- Anti-fraud Bribery and Corruption
- Investment Policy
- Assets and Disposal Policy
- Confidential reporting (whistleblowing)
- Risk management Policy
- Business Continuity Policy
- Fundraising Policy
- Pay Policy
- Leave of Absence
- Attendance Management
- Capability Teachers / Non-teaching
- Appraisal
- Trust Organisational Change
- Disciplinary
- Grievance
- Managing Allegations
- Risk Management Procedure Policy
- Health & Safety
- Cyber Security

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The Academy has provided a fully comprehensive education to all pupils in its care. It fully complies with all statutory guidance and seeks to support its wider educational objectives via a strong community role.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Summary of Trust operations and achievements this year are as follows:

- Ouston Humanities (History and Geography) and Art and Design curriculum are now of a high standard in terms of content and progression, addressing an Ofsted focus area
- Ouston EYFS results in 2023 were very positive in reading, writing and maths. The % of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development had increased to 71% although this is below national.
- Ouston have significantly increased the number of pupils who have attended Nursery this year. This will have a positive impact on the on-entry standards of the children starting reception and the speed at which they settle in to school life.
- An issue at Ouston regarding the delivery of the new phonics scheme and the teaching of split digraphs was resolved. 81% of Year 1 achieved the pass mark which is well above national.
- Key stage 1 results at Ouston were positive with all three subjects expected to be above national. Writing is a target for improvement and is the weakest of the subjects.
- KS2 results were very positive for a weaker cohort with reading well above national, writing above national and Maths broadly in-line with national. GPS was also above but RWM combined was below national. This might resolve as 4 remarks will be processed with children only missing 100 by 1 mark. 3 are maths and 1 is reading.
- Ouston's ECT (Early Career Teacher) has been supported by staff to successfully complete her two years.
- Ouston attendance at 94% is expected to be well above national.
- Ouston have had settled and positive behaviour and strong support for pupils with SEND and behavioural/emotional difficulties. Only one 0.5 (lunchtime) fixed term exclusion all year
- Although KS1 assessment are no longer required, tests were completed along side teacher assessment. As a result of high quality teaching and interventions at Fulwell. 86% expected plus reading (34% greater depth), 78% expected plus writing (21% greater depth) and 86% expected plus maths (25% greater depth). 74% of children achieved the expected standard in reading writing maths combined. This includes the results of 3 EHCP pupils and a child who started Year 2 in March 2024 having received no formal education abroad.
- In year 1 phonics 91% achieved the expected standard this included 3 children with EHCP's.
- In reception year group 78% achieved good level of development with the early learning goals in reading (comprehension 82% and word reading 82%), writing (82%) and maths, (number 90%, numerical patterns 90%).
- During this academic year, the forest school area, recently developed, was well used. It offered Reception children many opportunities during teacher PPA time for the first two terms of 2023-2024. Fulwell Infants achieved PSQM, the Primary Science Quality mark in September 2023. Work has continued towards the Artsmark award.
- Attendance at Fulwell at 95.5% is very likely to be above national. Only 13 children have attendance below 90%, mainly due to holidays or to illness. 6 children of the 13 have attendance at 89.2%. 7 children in the below 90% group are Reception children.
- Children's behaviour and behaviour for learning remains exemplary at Fulwell Infants and a very proactive school council ensured we remained focused on issues important to the children. Work to convert the gazebo into a 'buddy station' has begun this summer and the school council members served on stalls at the summer fayre following their involvement in the planning and delivering of it.
- Fulwell had an ECT teacher who has successfully completed Year 1 of her training. She will be joined by another ECT who is covering a teacher maternity leave from September 2024. Fulwell also appointed an experienced teacher to join the Year 1 team from September.
- Trust continues to receive substantial level of assurance with regards to its internal operations and procedures in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report Achievements

Data July 2024 – Ouston Primary School

RECEPTION

Word Reading: 75%
National 2023: 76%

Comprehension: 83%
National 2023: 80.6%

Writing: 70%
National 2023: 71%

Number: 83%%
National 2023: 78.9%

Numerical Patterns: 78%
National 2023: 78.3%

GLD: 68%
National 2023: 67%

Phonics

Year 1: 73% (82% without the EHCP/TUF pupils) **National 23:** 79%

26 pupils – each around 4%

1 x EHCP pupil (working around 18-24 months in this area), 1 x TUF pupil (CYPS referral for ASD and ADHD, result was 28 so made good progress) and 1 x EHCP referral (result-0)

Year 2: 100% of year group have now passed.

Year 2

Reading	70% expected level	National 2023: 68%
Reading	28% GDS	National 2023: 19%
Writing	66% expected level	National 2023: 60%
Writing	11% GDS	National 2023: 8%
Maths	85% expected level	National 2023: 70%
Maths	22% GDS	National 2023: 16%

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Check

11/29 (38%) achieved 25/25 1 EHCP pupil dis-applied (37% if included in results)

7 of the remaining pupils achieved 24/25

Mean average score - 30 pupils: 21.2

Mean average score – 29 pupils (without EHCP pupil): 22

National 2023: 29% achieving 25/25

Mean average score: 20.2%

Year 6

Reading	77% (82%) expected level	National 2024: 74%
Reading	11% (12%) High Score	National 2023: 29%
Writing	71% (76%) expected level	National 2024: 72%
Writing	17% (18%) GDS level	National 2023: 13%
Maths	80% (82%) expected level	National 2024: 73%
Maths	26% (24%) High Score	National 2023: 24%
GPS	74% (79%) expected level	National 2024: 72%
GPS	20% (21%) expected level	National 2023: 30%
RWM	57% (61%) expected level	National 2024: 61%
RWM	11% (12%) GDS/High Score Level	National 2023: 8%

% in brackets is without 2 pupils who only joined us in Year 6: One pupil in March from a school in China. One pupil in April from a local school but had also been home-schooled since February – also SEND.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Data July 2024 - Fulwell Infant School

KS1

Reading 86% expected level and 34% GDS level
National 2023: 68% and 19% GDS level

Writing 78% expected level and 21% GDS level
National 2023: 60% and 8% GDS level

Maths 86% expected level and 25% GDS level
National 2023: 70% and 16% GDS level

RWM expected level 74%

Y2 Phonics (Year 2 retakes)

Of the 8 children who retook the phonics screen, 4 passed. The remaining 4 children have SEND.
95% of Year 2 have passed the phonics screen.

Year 1 Phonics: 91%

Including 3 children with EHCP's.

National 2023: 79%

EYFS (89 pupils including 1 with EHC)

GLD 79%

National 2023: 67%

Comprehension 82% ELG

National 2023: 80.6%

Word Reading 82% ELG

National 2023: 76%

Writing 82% ELG

National 2023: 71%

Number 90% ELG

National 2023: 78.9%

Numerical Patterns 90% ELG

National 2023: 78.3%

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Priorities for 2024-2025

Look to expand Trust membership through the inclusion of schools who share our educational principles, in line with DFE proposals. Create Trust Steering Group Formalise information sharing between local governing bodies and the Trust Board, ensure clear separation of roles between members, trustees and local governing body. Ensure that there is a focus on Estates Management and monitoring.

FULWELL

- Preparation for Ofsted.
- Complete the revision of the foundation curriculum (summer term 2024) to strengthen further the sequencing and links between and within subjects.
- Rewrite the RSE curriculum and embed this during 2024-2025.
- Set up a small SEND provision for children with EHCP's where a differentiated curriculum in core subjects does not meet their needs in the classroom. Work will be focused on personal targets from EHCP's and life skills during periods of attendance in the provision.
- Focus on mental Maths, problem solving and developing children's financial understanding.
- Continue to focus on the lowest 30% through targeted interventions that have measurable impact in reading, writing and phonics.
- Extend the challenge (application) in learning for the most able in all subjects.
- Continue to work towards Artsmark Gold.

OUSTON

- Writing standards to continue to increase across the school with a focus on handwriting.
- Strengthen KS1 Science with a focus on worksheet reduction/more pupil input, challenge for older/more able pupils and embedding Scientific enquiry
- Maintain and further improve Year 1 Phonics results
- Ensure that the curriculum for DT, is well sequenced from EYFS to Year 6 and the key knowledge and end points are clear.
- Ensure Subject Leads have a good understanding of how their subject is covered in EYFS and ensure that this learning prepares them for and links to KS1 topics and themes.
- Maintain the high standards in expected level at the end of KS2 with a focus on Maths.
- Ensure Phonics Screen standards are maintained at their high level through embedding the scheme introduced last September.
- Work to achieve Arts mark Gold
- Achieve Re-Accreditation of Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award.
- Further SEND training for staff in ASD.
- Apply for CIF funding to replace windows and cladding throughout.

Going concern

Going concern is assessed during the budget process and relevant budget approval. The trust considers a number of key factors to assist in the assessment of being a going concern, these include:

- The level of reserves held within the trust's balance sheet
- The coming years budget
- Pupil numbers
- Careful management of the trust cash position

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial review

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The main sources of income for the Trust are grants from the Education Skills Funding Agency in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In addition, the Trust had other income grants from the ESFA, funding from Local Authorities including Early Years Funding and High needs top up funding for children with Special Educational Needs. The Trust also has additional income from providing wraparound care in the form of breakfast, after school and paid nursery education.

The Trust receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice such grants are shown in the statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned as defined in the Trusts accounting policies.

Further successful CIF bids have been awarded totaling £483,651 for window replacement at Ouston Primary School this will be supported by £50,000 from trust reserves, as works are not expected to fully commence until the new academic year majority of this will be ring fenced within capital.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £3,448,817 (excluding depreciation and LGPS movements) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding capital income, depreciation and pension movements) was £42,315.

Reserves policy

The Governing Body is responsible for determining the level of financial reserves to be carried forward at the end of each financial year (31 August).

The Trusts free reserves are its funds after excluding restricted funds. Free reserves are therefore the resources the Academy has or can make available to spend for any or all of the Trusts purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure.

The Trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2024 of £895,596 comprising of restricted and unrestricted funds.

This comprises of £508,878 of unrestricted funds and restricted general reserves of £386,718 (excluding the impact of the deficit on the LGPS pension scheme).

Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

Trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the pupils.

Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to up to 2 month's cash in hand as working balances to cover salaries and monthly expenditure. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

Academy Trusts reserves will be used to support capital projects and the future financial stability of the trust moving forward due to funding pressures, increased staffing, energy, supplier costs and pension contributions. At a meeting of the trust board 13th July 2024 it was agreed that reserves would need to be used to support longer term financial planning when agreeing the next three years budgets.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Investment policy

The Academy will operate an interest bearing current account with a bank approved by the Governing Body and maintain sufficient balances to ensure there are adequate liquid funds to cover all immediate and forthcoming financial commitments, including maintaining a sufficient contingency for unexpected payments.

Our aim is to spend the publicly funded monies with which we are entrusted for the direct educational benefit of students as soon as is prudent. The academy does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather it is the result of best practice as and when circumstances allow.

Monies surplus to the working requirements will be invested short term low risk basis only taking ethical considerations into account.

Taking the following into account during 2023-2024 Trustees agreed that funds totaling £500k would be invested on a short term basis.

The key purpose is:

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current accounts to cover the day-to-day workings of the
- To ensure that there is low risk to the capital value of any cash funds invested
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation
- To optimise returns on invested funds for the benefit of the Trusts Charitable aims and objectives
- It is the intention of the Trust to invest in ways that are consistent with the values of the Trust
- The Trust will ensure that any bank or fund managers responsible for the Trusts investments are operating to socially responsible objectives consistent with those of the Trust

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to strategic, operational and finance. Trustees have implemented a system to assess risks, especially in the operational areas which includes teaching and health and safety, estate management, IT security and the control of finance. Trustees have introduced systems, including operational procedures, sought professional advice and support and implemented internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The long-term funding for the education sector is under significant financial pressure due to funding not increasing in line with inflation and not currently forecast to increase at the same rate as costs. Added to this is the crisis in SEND and the lack of funding for pupils requiring an EHCP and support for pupils with complex needs. Due to the special school capacity crisis, mainstream schools are supporting pupils "who would typically have been placed in a specialist setting and doing so without any additional funding

Trustees are clear that the principal risks to the Academy are potential future changes to Government funding, falling pupil numbers, reputational damage, cyber security, increasing energy, supplier and staffing costs, pay awards and pension increases and funding for SEND

Financial – assumptions regarding future pay awards, pension contribution requirements, staffing requirements and the cost of goods and services within the academies 3 year plans may not be sufficient. In addition the government may introduce changes which adversely affect the academies income streams. Forward planning, Trust reserves, prudent budgeting and rigorous financial controls are deployed to manage these threats.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds – the Trust regularly assesses its fraud risks and strengthens its controls as needed. Along with the Trusts finance team, policies and procedures are scrutinised by internal and external audit ensuring that the controls in place meet the expectations required in the Academies Trust Handbook. The areas covered this year include Governance, Finance, and Budgetary Control, Income Systems and Procedures, Payroll, IT Security, Business Continuity and Risk Management.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trusts academies is dependent on favourable Ofsted results and continuing to attract pupils in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Directors ensure that pupil's success and achievements are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and Child Protection - the Directors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. Safeguarding reviews are commissioned and undertaken in all Trust academies on a regular basis.

Cyber-crime, ransomware use or loss of data - with the constantly changing landscape of online threats and demands which can seriously impact the trusts day to day running whilst systems are restored, protocols have been put in place to minimise the likelihood of such an attack as well as to mitigate the impact. Earlier in the year Trustees agreed the move to cloud based systems for Finance, Sims and agreed the installation of a Smoothwall filtering service.

The trust has a dedicated IT team, email filter, anti-virus software and all backups are cloud based.

Estates management – pupils, staff and visitors have access to healthy, safe, secure, accessible and environmentally friendly schools within the trust. Trustees are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and continue to regularly consider the potential risks around the land and buildings. Procedures have been put in place to enable effective management of the trust estate through making best use of available budgets, getting the best value through procurement allocating resources in line with strategic priorities. This is done by the use of qualified organisations and personnel ensuring all legal and safety requirements are met.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Fundraising

Fundraising is seen by Jigsaw Learning Trust as a legitimate means of improving the school's ability to purchase goods, equipment or services, which are not available within capital or revenue budgets. For the public donating cash or equipment, or actively raising funds is seen as a positive way of supporting schools within the Trust.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that:

- Correct procedures are in place and followed for fundraising activities,
- Expenditure is properly validated,
- All funds raised are properly accounted for and audited,
- The money is expended in accordance with the objectives agreed with the fund raisers.

Fundraising activities will be recognised so long as they are generally within the strategic direction of the Trust's plans and ethos. Fundraising by staff must be approved in advance, fundraising by external bodies will be recognised, although such bodies will be encouraged to advise the Trust of their intentions and be guided by the Trust.

Plans for future periods

The Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Trust will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives. A key strength of the Trust is the range of expertise and talent available within the workforce and this will continue to be deployed in a collaborative manner to provide challenge and support.

We will continue to work in partnership with other schools developing and improving educational opportunities for all children as part of local and national forums and as part of the CEO' role as a National Leader in Education.

Look to expand Trust membership through the inclusion of further schools who share our educational principles, in line with DFE proposals.

Further improvement of the Trusts estate ensuring continued compliance with requirements around Health and Safety, welfare of pupils and other users of Trust buildings. Ensure schools within the trust have an effective asset management plan which can identify works in order of priority which can inform strategic decisions on larger scale programs of repair, replacement or improvement of premises ensuring overall effective and efficient management of all financial resources maximising value for money.

We will continue to promote the Early Years Provision across the trust.

The Trust will be proactive with changes in the education landscape and respond accordingly to ensure all pupils continue to be offered the best opportunities they can be.

We will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for pupils in the wider community.

To use the reserves held in an efficient manner.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Auditor

The trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the trustees have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communication to the auditor.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



H Akien
Trustee

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DFE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 Jigsaw Learning 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. Trustees have formally met 4 times during the year.

Attendances during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees were as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
H Akien (Trustee)	4	4
W Angus (Accounting Officer)	4	4
Dr A A Jackson	4	4
K F Hern (Resigned 31 March 2024)	3	4
G Batten	3	4
L Lavelle	4	4
D Green	2	4
S A Green	0	4
L Hill	2	4

In order for the Trust Board to have effective oversight, the Board of Jigsaw Learning Trust has met 4 times this year and held its annual general meeting on the 16th January 2024. The agendas for these meetings cover all aspects of their responsibilities for the Trust.

To support the Trustee role, the delegated Finance, Audit and Premises Committee, Personnel and Standards Committees met 3 times. To support the scrutiny and effective oversight, the Chair of the Board receives monthly reports and has meetings with the CEO and Finance Director and reports to the Board as necessary.

By supporting the Trust both in meetings and outside them, the Board are able to have comprehensive knowledge of how the trust is working and are able to identify areas for them to address accordingly.

In 2023-24 it was agreed that a Trust Steering Group be formed as part of potential trust growth.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The governance of the school:

The governing body is extremely well informed regarding how well pupils are performing, including those eligible for the pupil premium. Senior members of the governing body have a professional background in education enabling them to be acutely aware of the quality of teaching on offer. Subject leaders, as well as the Principle, write regular informative reports, and members of the governing body visit lessons to look at the quality of pupils' work. As a result, they are very well placed to offer support and challenge in equal measure.

The governors insist on making sure that central to any extra remuneration for teachers is a link to their performance, their overall contribution to the school and to pupils' achievement. A dedicated governor responsible for safeguarding ensures that governors thoroughly monitor the policies and school's procedures and that the school's arrangements to safeguard pupils meet government requirements.

Managing Conflicts of Interest

Trustees have a duty under the law to act in the best interests of the charities they serve. Trustees, generally, should not benefit from the charity and should not be influenced by their wider interests when making decisions affecting the charity. For charitable companies, trustees have a specific legal duty to avoid conflicts of interest under s175 of the Companies Act 2006.

All Trustees and staff of Jigsaw Learning Trust complete a Register of Business Interests form on an annual basis; this is published on the Trusts website and updated accordingly. This is also a standing agenda item at every committee meeting including sub committees of the Board of Trustees.

Governance reviews:

An in depth review of governance was carried out at the time the academy applied to become a Multi Academy Trust and Academy Sponsor, thus ensuring a balance of diversity, knowledge, skills and experience providing strategic leadership and accountability, covering three core functions

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For the 2023-2024 academic year the trust has:

- Reviewed the membership of the Trust and Governing Board
- Carried out an annual review of the Scheme of Delegation
- Reviewed Committees
- Reviewed the calendar of meeting's for the year.
- Carried out an NGA Skills Audit
- Reviewed Governor Development - key questions a MAT Board should ask itself.
- Monitored closely the financial performance of the Trust.
- Attended Ofsted training
- Attended Safeguarding training
- Carried out Cyber Security Training

The Directors Finance/Audit & Premises Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Review detailed budget and management accounts (including variance analysis).
- To consider exceptional request for expenditure
- To consider individual academy budget proposals for authorisation
- Review the effectiveness of the School's internal control system established to ensure that the aims, objectives and key performance targets of the organisation are achieved in the most economic, effective and environmentally preferable manner
- Review Risk Management Procedures
- Oversee statutory compliance in areas related to the specific work of the Personnel, Health & Safety, Premises and Finance Committees.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Directors Finance Committee was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
W Angus (Accounting Officer)	3	3
H Akien	3	3
Dr A Jackson	3	3
K Hern	3	3
G Batten	3	3
T Hope (Finance Director)	3	3

The Directors Standards and Performance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Ensure that the highest possible standards are set and maintained across the Trust.
- Ensure that effective processes are in place for the quality assurance and self-evaluation of teaching and learning, the curriculum, inclusion and the sharing of good practice across the Trust.
- Identify any areas of concern in respect of standards and performance.

Attendance during the year at the meetings of the Directors Standards Committee was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
W Angus (Accounting Officer)	3	3
H Akien	2	3
L Lavelle	3	3
D Green	1	3
Dr A Jackson	3	3
S Green	2	3
L Hill	2	3

The Directors Personnel Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- To review the salaries of staff each year, taking account of any recommendations made by the CEO of the Trust in respect of the annual performance management process.
- Consider, determine and review all HR policies and organisational development.
- In meeting with the Finance/Audit Committee review and recommend to the Trust changes to the pay policy, having undertaken any appropriate consultation.
- To agree/recommend any pay and personnel related statutory and other policies to be adopted across the Trust's schools - e.g. appraisal, disciplinary, equality
- To be notified of any disciplinary/grievance, and provide support as appropriate.

Attendance during the year at the meetings of the Directors Personnel Committee was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
W Angus (Accounting Officer)	3	3
T Hope (Finance Director)	3	3
H Aiken	3	3
K Hern	2	3
Dr A Jackson	3	3

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Review of value for money

The academy trust has focused on targeted improvement linked to the Academy Improvement Plan to ensure maximum impact for pupils. This has included ensuring that the academy is delivering the new curriculum fully and correctly and in an engaging way which enable its pupils to thrive.

The investment in the curriculum is an element of the budget which has a direct impact on outcomes for pupils.

The Trust recognises the need to continually develop and improve its processes around securing the most competitive process to maximise the quality of outputs and benefit from economies of scale.

All expiring contracts will be appraised and where appropriate renegotiated in a timely manner assessing value for money. The school ensures that tenders are sourced where appropriate to ensure value for money. The trust has developed procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide best value in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost.

Financial governance and oversight is strong in the academy. The governing body has considerable financial and management experience and ensure strong challenge is in place. Reserve levels are reviewed annually, taking into consideration the future plans of the academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified. Regular budget to actual comparisons are produced and discussed with the finance and premises committee.

Value for money is a key part of ensuring we are able to improve through better systems that lead to better outcomes for pupils. The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and where it can be approved including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Rigorous performance management
- Robust financial governance and budget management
- Reviewing controls and managing risk
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency
- Deploying staff effectively
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress
- Effectively using trust resources and capital funding to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and compliant.
- Using approved suppliers and contractors from the trusts safe contractor list
- Negotiating discounts wherever possible

We are confident that resources have been used appropriately to develop the strategic aims of the trust.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Premises Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- 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 considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed JGT Internal Audit to carry out this service.

Introduction and Objectives

In accordance with the agreement between the Trustees of Jigsaw Learning Trust and JGT Internal Audit Services an agreed audit programme was delivered through a series of termly visits during 2023-24 and findings have been reported to the Trust Board via the Finance Director.

An annual report required by the Education and Skills Funding Agency provides a summary and opinion on the audit findings arising from the programme of work undertaken during 2023-24 as well as stating the overall level of assurance that these findings would provide on the adequacy of governance, financial and non-financial management arrangements for the year as a whole.

The report also sets out some considerations for the academic year ahead.

The audit programme reviewed the following areas:

- Governance arrangements;
- Financial planning and budgetary control;
- Income and expenditure management;
- Monthly financial closedown
- Data / IT security;
- Business continuity planning.

Summary of Findings

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Governance Arrangements No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

Findings from the annual review of the Trust's governance arrangements confirmed that: Constitutional records, roles, responsibilities and delegations continue to be clearly defined and appropriately documented.

The Trust's Governance Charter/Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations Manual are up to date, with annual reviews undertaken in line with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

The Trust's Website is also up to date and accords with the Academy Trust Handbook in terms of the required publications.

Details of active Members and Directors are current at Companies House, with relevant information also being held on the DfE website Get Information About Schools.

Appropriate arrangements remain in place to manage actual and potential conflicts of interest.

Regular, detailed reports and updates are provided to the Board / committee to support effective discussion and decision-making.

Minutes continue to be appropriately set out, reflecting key points from discussions, questions and decisions reached.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Financial Planning No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

The requirements for setting and reporting the budget, as detailed in the Financial Regulations Manual, continue to be applied appropriately in practice.

The budget for the current academic year was presented to and approved by the Finance Committee on 29.6.2023 as recorded in the minutes of this meeting. The Board of Directors later ratified the finalised the budget at their meeting on 13.7.2023. Approval is in line with ATH requirements and in accordance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

Key elements of income and expenditure making up the budget were satisfactorily agreed to supporting primary evidence. From discussions with the Finance Director, the rationale underpinning the budget, as well as the medium term budget forecast would appear reasonable.

It was also confirmed that the medium term budget forecast is reviewed, updated and reported regularly to Directors, with appropriate action being proposed when necessary to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Trust.

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Budgetary Control No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

The method of budgetary control adopted by the Trust is as set out in the Financial Regulations Manual and continues to be applied in practice through the production of monthly Management Accounts. Management Accounts are considered satisfactory in terms of their expected content which adheres to Academy Trust Handbook stipulations. This includes an analysis of the current budget against actual income/expenditure to date with explanations to account for key variances. A balance sheet and cash flow statement are also included.

Management accounts are shared appropriately with the Chair of the Trust and other Directors, as per the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Income Management No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

A selection of key income streams was reviewed. Test results were satisfactory, confirming that effective systems for the management and control of income are in place. Debt management arrangements are also satisfactory.

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Expenditure Management No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

Procedures for the purchase of goods and services remain effective and incorporate appropriate controls. Payments to suppliers sampled were supported by satisfactory evidence of prior review and approval in line with the Trust's Financial Regulations Manual.

A sample of payments to staff was reviewed from a report of payroll transactions.

Satisfactory evidence confirming the accuracy, appropriateness and, where applicable, the approval of these transactions was sighted in all cases.

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Monthly Financial Closedown No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

Procedures reviewed are in line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation Manual. Limited testing covered an examination of Aged Debtors and Creditors Reports to corresponding control account balances, the results of which were satisfactory. Bank reconciliations reviewed were also satisfactory, with the explanations for reconciling items present at that time considered reasonable.

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Data / IT Security No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

Evidence was sighted to confirm that regular data back-ups take place and also that appropriate anti-virus/cyber security software is currently installed on the Trust's systems to mitigate the risk of infection/attack.

SmoothWall web filtering software had been successfully installed and is operational at Ouston Academy and at the time of the audit review was being rolled out at Fulwell.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Substantial Assurance is provided on the Effectiveness of Business Continuity Planning No Improvement Actions Considered Necessary

Arrangements for business continuity planning are appropriately documented, with comprehensive plans in place at both Academies. Plans are subject to regular review and update where necessary. Evidence of periodic drills being carried out was also noted, with satisfactory records of each exercise being retained.

Conclusion/Opinion Statement

The audits carried out this year were designed to assess whether the management and control arrangements in the areas under scrutiny were in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust's own policies and procedures and operate effectively in practice:

- to support the achievement of the Trust's objectives; and
- to safeguard public funds and those officers involved in their administration.

Findings from these audits are considered to provide substantial assurance overall that effective arrangements are in place to manage risk and demonstrate good practice. The controls evaluated are well designed, appropriate in scope and are applied consistently and effectively.

Although the impending election and possible change of government creates some uncertainty, current/emerging risks in the following areas have been noted during 2023-24, from audit results as well as the national media that may require assessment:

- Ofsted readiness;
- Forming / joining a Multi-Academy Trust;
- Financial sustainability;
- Staff recruitment and retention;
- Staff / student wellbeing
- Cyber-crime and IT security
- Buildings safety and security.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the self-assessment checklist (SRMSAC)
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the finance/audit committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



H Akien
Trustee



W Angus
Accounting Officer

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of Jigsaw Learning 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 received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place 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 2023.

As accounting officer of Jigsaw Learning 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 in place 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 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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.



W Angus
Accounting Officer

04 December 2024

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of Jigsaw Learning Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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 that 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 04 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



H Akien
Trustee

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Jigsaw Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 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 the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' 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 accounts 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.

Emphasis of matter - LGPS Disclosure

We draw your attention to note 2 to the financial statements which describes how the LGPS balance has been accounted for. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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 financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://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 charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services**

Statutory Auditor

5/12/2024

.....
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
United Kingdom
TS22 5TB

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Jigsaw Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Jigsaw Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Jigsaw Learning Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Jigsaw Learning Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Jigsaw Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Jigsaw Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 December 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, 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 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of Internal Assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls
- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under ESFA delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Azets Audit Services

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

Dated: 5/12/2024

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	8,538	-	498,586	507,124	52,697
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	6	52,466	3,396,729	-	3,449,195	3,328,006
Other trading activities	4	167,851	-	-	167,851	171,896
Investments	5	109	-	-	109	111
Total		228,964	3,396,729	498,586	4,124,279	3,552,710
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	139,561	-	-	139,561	158,954
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	7,881	3,401,936	158,457	3,568,274	3,458,255
Total	7	147,442	3,401,936	158,457	3,707,835	3,617,209
Net income/(expenditure)		81,522	(5,207)	340,129	416,444	(64,499)
Transfers between funds	20	-	(7,971)	7,971	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	99,000	-	99,000	390,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	23	-	(90,000)	-	(90,000)	(209,000)
Net movement in funds		81,522	(4,178)	348,100	425,444	116,501
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		427,356	227,896	5,849,153	6,504,405	6,387,904
Total funds carried forward		508,878	223,718	6,197,253	6,929,849	6,504,405

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	5,629	-	47,068	52,697
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	6	55,945	3,272,061	-	3,328,006
Other trading activities	4	171,896	-	-	171,896
Investments	5	111	-	-	111
Total		233,581	3,272,061	47,068	3,552,710
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	158,954	-	-	158,954
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	41,496	3,252,998	163,761	3,458,255
Total	7	200,450	3,252,998	163,761	3,617,209
Net income/(expenditure)		33,131	19,063	(116,693)	(64,499)
Transfers between funds	20	-	(31,738)	31,738	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	390,000	-	390,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	23	-	(209,000)	-	(209,000)
Net movement in funds		33,131	168,325	(84,955)	116,501
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		394,225	59,571	5,934,108	6,387,904
Total funds carried forward		427,356	227,896	5,849,153	6,504,405

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	13		2,357		306
Tangible assets	14		5,755,131		5,868,762
			<u>5,757,488</u>		<u>5,869,068</u>
Current assets					
Stock	15	4,568		4,754	
Debtors	16	414,161		54,230	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,132,224		1,024,719	
		<u>1,550,953</u>		<u>1,083,703</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(204,710)		(227,322)	
Net current assets			<u>1,346,243</u>		<u>856,381</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>7,103,731</u>		<u>6,725,449</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(10,882)		(15,044)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>7,092,849</u>		<u>6,710,405</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		(163,000)		(206,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>6,929,849</u></u>		<u><u>6,504,405</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	20				
- Fixed asset funds			6,197,253		5,849,153
- Restricted income funds			386,718		433,896
- Pension reserve			(163,000)		(206,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>6,420,971</u>		<u>6,077,049</u>
Unrestricted income funds	20		<u>508,878</u>		<u>427,356</u>
Total funds			<u><u>6,929,849</u></u>		<u><u>6,504,405</u></u>

The accounts on pages 33 to 60 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 04 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



H Akien
Trustee

Company registration number 08277622 (England and Wales)

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	22		(339,442)		111,258
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		109		111	
Capital grants from DfE Group		498,586		47,068	
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(3,259)		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(43,618)		(73,936)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			451,818		(26,757)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of other loan		(4,871)		(4,871)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(4,871)		(4,871)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			107,505		79,630
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,024,719		945,089
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,132,224		1,024,719

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable 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 accounts 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 accounts.

1.3 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.

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 period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

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.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are 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.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are 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.

1.5 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Purchased computer software 3 years

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 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 that require 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Long leasehold land	125 years
Leasehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold improvements	50 years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7 years

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. Land and buildings are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis derived from ESFA and local authority valuations.

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

1.7 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.

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.10 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.11 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.

1.12 Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The 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 are 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 or 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.

1.13 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 the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

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 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. The UK corporate bond yields at 31 August 2024 remain high, resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to previous years and will be one of the main reasons a net asset has been reported. We have ensured that our assumptions are appropriate for the Academy Trust and the valuation has been based on the following estimates:

- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to LGPS
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period
- The present values in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

There is no known intention to exit the LGPS and therefore the economic benefit of a refund would be highly unlikely and on that basis recognition of an asset is considered inappropriate. We have however considered the economic benefit available to the Academy Trust as a future contribution reduction and whether it is appropriate to recognise the net asset in full. Under FRS 102, a net asset restriction may apply as the prevailing view is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. We requested our actuaries consider the impact of the minimum funding requirement on the asset ceiling and as a result we have restricted the asset to £nil based upon an asset restriction calculation. We consider this to be appropriate and a more accurate reflection of the pension positions as at 31 August 2024.

The Tyne and Wear pension scheme reported an asset, and the treatment of this is noted above. The valuation for the Durham pension scheme reported a deficit, and this is recognised on the balance sheet.

Land and buildings

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125 year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The land and buildings are valued on the basis of valuations provided by the ESFA/local authority

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated as to write off the cost of an asset off over its useful economic life. The accounting policies are disclosed in the accounting policy above.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	498,586	498,586	47,068
Other donations	8,538	-	8,538	5,629
	<u>8,538</u>	<u>498,586</u>	<u>507,124</u>	<u>52,697</u>

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Hire of facilities	470	-	470	665
Catering income	485	-	485	659
Educational visits	23,316	-	23,316	32,397
Uniforms	1,032	-	1,032	4,431
Other income	142,548	-	142,548	133,744
	<u>167,851</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,851</u>	<u>171,896</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Short term deposits	<u>109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>111</u>

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,310,707	2,310,707	2,200,740
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	149,499	149,499	147,674
- Pupil premium	-	107,768	107,768	102,647
- PE and sports premium	-	35,960	35,960	35,860
- Rates grant	-	10,642	10,642	10,022
- Teachers pension grant	-	18,911	18,911	8,216
- Teachers pay grant	-	38,856	38,856	2,907
- Supplementary grants	-	77,065	77,065	96,911
- National tutoring grant	-	1,610	1,610	5,670
- Others	-	12,553	12,553	18,872
	-	2,763,571	2,763,571	2,629,519
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	633,158	633,158	642,542
Other funding				
Catering income	39,845	-	39,845	41,496
Other incoming resources	12,621	-	12,621	14,449
	52,466	-	52,466	55,945
Total funding	52,466	3,396,729	3,449,195	3,328,006

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	87,681	-	51,880	139,561	158,954
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,187,468	-	113,108	2,300,576	2,195,666
- Allocated support costs	515,105	413,625	338,968	1,267,698	1,262,589
	2,790,254	413,625	503,956	3,707,835	3,617,209

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure (Continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	4,738	10,522
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	157,249	163,027
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	1,208	734
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	12,000	10,750
- Other services	4,700	4,400
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(5,000)	11,000

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	-	2,300,576	2,300,576	2,195,666
Support costs				
Educational operations	7,881	1,259,817	1,267,698	1,262,589
	7,881	3,560,393	3,568,274	3,458,255

	2024 £	2023 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	515,105	541,596
Depreciation and amortisation	158,457	163,761
Technology costs	64,692	57,484
Premises costs	255,168	218,046
Legal costs	3,586	2,759
Other support costs	241,186	250,288
Governance costs	29,504	28,655
	1,267,698	1,262,589

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Central services

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

- financial services including audit;
- school improvement and leadership

Fulwell Infant School has supported Ouston Primary School in these areas during the year, with an £26,498 (2023: £15,512) charge made to cover the cost of providing these services.

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,061,727	2,020,836
Social security costs	197,399	185,664
Pension costs	439,023	465,924
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	2,698,149	2,672,424
Agency staff costs	92,105	57,530
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff development and other staff costs	2,790,254	2,729,954
	27,088	7,655
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	2,817,342	2,737,609
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	52	55
Administration and support	25	25
Management	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82	85
	<hr/>	<hr/>

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £332,065 (2023: £313,066).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees.

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

W Angus (Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration	£100,001 - £105,000 (2023: £90,001 - £95,000)
Employer's pension contributions	£26,001 - £30,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

L Lavelle (Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration	£75,001 - £80,000 (2023: £70,001 - £75,000)
Employer's pension contributions	£20,001 - £25,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

12 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 trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	4,250
Additions	3,259
Disposals	(4,250)
At 31 August 2024	3,259
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2023	3,944
On disposals	(4,250)
Charge for year	1,208
At 31 August 2024	902
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2024	2,357
At 31 August 2023	306

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Assets under construction £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2023	5,305,991	1,434,827	-	99,613	170,451	7,010,882
Additions	-	-	30,564	6,704	6,350	43,618
At 31 August 2024	5,305,991	1,434,827	30,564	106,317	176,801	7,054,500
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2023	715,159	228,460	-	76,411	122,090	1,142,120
Charge for the year	102,364	28,867	-	12,169	13,849	157,249
At 31 August 2024	817,523	257,327	-	88,580	135,939	1,299,369
Net book value						
At 31 August 2024	4,488,468	1,177,500	30,564	17,737	40,862	5,755,131
At 31 August 2023	4,590,832	1,206,367	-	23,202	48,361	5,868,762

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15	Stock	2024	2023
		£	£
	Materials	4,568	4,754
16	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	VAT recoverable	7,250	8,383
	Prepayments and accrued income	406,911	45,847
		414,161	54,230
17	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Other loans	4,162	4,871
	Accruals and deferred income	200,548	222,451
		204,710	227,322
18	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Other loans	10,882	15,044
	Analysis of loans	2024	2023
		£	£
	Wholly repayable within five years	15,044	19,915
	Less: included in current liabilities	(4,162)	(4,871)
	Amounts included above	10,882	15,044
	Loan maturity		
	Debt due in one year or less	4,162	4,871
	Due in more than two years but not more than five years	10,882	15,044
		15,044	19,915

Included in other loans are Salix and CIF interest free loans.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	94,792	98,831
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	98,831	94,501
Released from previous years	(98,831)	(94,501)
Resources deferred in the year	94,792	98,831
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	94,792	98,831
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income includes Universal Infant Free School Meals funding, early years funding and rates relief received in advance of the 2024/25 academic year.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	433,896	2,310,707	(2,349,914)	(7,971)	386,718
UIFSM	-	149,499	(149,499)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	107,768	(107,768)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	148,995	(148,995)	-	-
Other government grants	-	633,158	(633,158)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	35,960	(35,960)	-	-
Rates grant	-	10,642	(10,642)	-	-
Pension reserve	(206,000)	-	34,000	9,000	(163,000)
	<u>227,896</u>	<u>3,396,729</u>	<u>(3,401,936)</u>	<u>1,029</u>	<u>223,718</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	4,602,885	-	(103,368)	-	4,499,517
DfE group capital grants	901,160	498,586	(49,119)	-	1,350,627
Capital expenditure from GAG	318,332	-	(4,833)	7,971	321,470
Donated assets	667	-	(667)	-	-
PTA donation	7,309	-	(120)	-	7,189
Contributions by trust	18,800	-	(350)	-	18,450
	<u>5,849,153</u>	<u>498,586</u>	<u>(158,457)</u>	<u>7,971</u>	<u>6,197,253</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>6,077,049</u>	<u>3,895,315</u>	<u>(3,560,393)</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>6,420,971</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>427,356</u>	<u>228,964</u>	<u>(147,442)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>508,878</u>
Total funds	<u>6,504,405</u>	<u>4,124,279</u>	<u>(3,707,835)</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>6,929,849</u>

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Other DfE/ESFA grants include PE grant, pupil premium and universal infant free school meals funding and other grants received from DfE/ESFA. Material grants have been identified separately.

Other government grants includes funding for pupils with special educational needs and early years grants.

The pension reserve reflects the LGPS transactions. The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to the LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with these funds.

Capital grants include Devolved Formula Capital which was utilised on asset additions. All capital funds have been utilised in the period, with asset additions also funded by GAG and unrestricted funds, represented by a transfer. No capital grants have been carried forward.

The inherited fixed asset fund reflects the fixed assets acquired on conversion. Depreciation on these assets is charged against this fund.

Capital expenditure in the year has also been funded by GAG and unrestricted funds. Transfers between these funds are reflected in the gains, losses and transfers column.

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the academy.

The academy's restricted general and unrestricted funds were £895,596 at 31 August 2024.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	401,571	2,200,740	(2,136,677)	(31,738)	433,896
UIFSM	-	147,674	(147,674)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	102,647	(102,647)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	18,872	(18,872)	-	-
Other government grants	-	642,542	(642,542)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	35,860	(35,860)	-	-
Rates grant	-	10,022	(10,022)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	5,670	(5,670)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	2,907	(2,907)	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	8,216	(8,216)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	96,911	(96,911)	-	-
Pension reserve	(342,000)	-	(45,000)	181,000	(206,000)
	<u>59,571</u>	<u>3,272,061</u>	<u>(3,252,998)</u>	<u>149,262</u>	<u>227,896</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	4,706,955	-	(104,070)	-	4,602,885
DfE group capital grants	872,530	47,068	(18,438)	-	901,160
Capital expenditure from GAG	326,044	-	(39,450)	31,738	318,332
Donated assets	2,000	-	(1,333)	-	667
PTA donation	7,429	-	(120)	-	7,309
Contributions by trust	19,150	-	(350)	-	18,800
	<u>5,934,108</u>	<u>47,068</u>	<u>(163,761)</u>	<u>31,738</u>	<u>5,849,153</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>5,993,679</u>	<u>3,319,129</u>	<u>(3,416,759)</u>	<u>181,000</u>	<u>6,077,049</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>394,225</u>	<u>233,581</u>	<u>(200,450)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>427,356</u>
Total funds	<u>6,387,904</u>	<u>3,552,710</u>	<u>(3,617,209)</u>	<u>181,000</u>	<u>6,504,405</u>

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024 £	2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Fulwell Infant School Academy	613,235	577,932
Ouston Primary School	282,361	283,320
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	895,596	861,252
Restricted fixed asset fund	6,197,253	5,849,153
Pension reserve	(163,000)	(206,000)
Total funds	6,929,849	6,504,405

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fulwell Infant School Academy	1,338,123	343,721	45,144	360,528	2,087,516	1,973,629
Ouston Primary School	956,656	207,842	40,876	290,488	1,495,862	1,434,819
	2,294,779	551,563	86,020	651,016	3,583,378	3,408,448

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	2,357	2,357
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,755,131	5,755,131
Current assets	508,878	587,266	454,809	1,550,953
Current liabilities	-	(200,548)	(4,162)	(204,710)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(10,882)	(10,882)
Pension scheme liability	-	(163,000)	-	(163,000)
Total net assets	508,878	223,718	6,197,253	6,929,849

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	306	306
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,868,762	5,868,762
Current assets	427,356	656,347	-	1,083,703
Current liabilities	-	(222,451)	(4,871)	(227,322)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(15,044)	(15,044)
Pension scheme liability	-	(206,000)	-	(206,000)
Total net assets	427,356	227,896	5,849,153	6,504,405

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

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		416,444	(64,499)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(498,586)	(47,068)
Investment income receivable	5	(109)	(111)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	23	(29,000)	34,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	23	(5,000)	11,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		157,249	163,027
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	13	1,208	734
Decrease in stocks		186	2,747
(Increase) in debtors		(359,931)	(637)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(21,903)	12,065
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(339,442)	111,258

23 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 the South Tyneside Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- 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 result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £279,853 (2023: £249,290).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.4 % - 25.2% for employers and 5.5 % - 12.5% for employees.

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

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Total contributions made	2024 £	2023 £
Employer's contributions	188,000	182,000
Employees' contributions	52,000	49,000
Total contributions	240,000	231,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 Ouston %	2024 Fulwell %	2023 Ouston %	2023 Fulwell %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5	4.0	3.7	4.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/ inflation	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.1
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6

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

	2024 Years Ouston	2024 Years Fulwell	2023 Years Ouston	2023 Years Fulwell
Retiring today				
- Males	21.5	20.8	21.7	21.0
- Females	23.8	24.0	23.9	24.1
Retiring in 20 years				
- Males	22.4	21.7	22.9	22.2
- Females	24.6	25.1	25.0	25.5

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Discount rate + 0.1%	3,487,000	3,154,000
Discount rate - 0.1%	3,618,000	3,275,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	3,462,000	3,136,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year	3,642,000	3,292,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	3,607,000	3,264,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	3,497,000	3,165,000

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	1,885,000	1,652,000
Government bonds	110,000	103,000
Cash	38,000	57,000
Corporate bonds	619,000	546,000
Property	354,000	313,000
Other assets	682,000	546,000
Total market value of assets	3,688,000	3,217,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(299,000)	(209,000)
Net assets recognised	3,389,000	3,008,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £308,000 (2023: £67,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	159,000	216,000
Interest income	(169,000)	(126,000)
Interest cost	164,000	137,000
Total amount recognised	154,000	227,000

The net gain recognised on scheme assets with the Tyne and Wear scheme has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future. The Durham scheme reported a deficit, and this has been recognised in the financial statements.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	3,214,000	3,361,000
Current service cost	159,000	216,000
Interest cost	164,000	137,000
Employee contributions	52,000	49,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	40,000	(449,000)
Benefits paid	(77,000)	(100,000)
At 31 August 2024	3,552,000	3,214,000

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	3,217,000	3,019,000
Interest income	169,000	126,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	139,000	(59,000)
Employer contributions	188,000	182,000
Employee contributions	52,000	49,000
Benefits paid	(77,000)	(100,000)
At 31 August 2024	3,688,000	3,217,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(299,000)	(209,000)
Net assets recognised	3,389,000	3,008,000

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2024 £
Cash	1,024,719	107,505	1,132,224
Loans falling due within one year	(4,871)	709	(4,162)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(15,044)	4,162	(10,882)
	1,004,804	112,376	1,117,180

25 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	4,627	5,071
Amounts due in two and five years	1,427	6,054
	6,054	11,125

26 Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	508,088	-

JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

27 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the period of account.

There were no related parties in the period.

28 Members' liability

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