

Company Registration No. 09265723 (England and Wales)

**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Mr Frank Maguire (Chairperson)  
Mr David Cadwallader  
Mrs Lorraine Partington  
Mr Chad Thompson (Vice Chairperson)  
Mrs Liz Bennington (resigned 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024)  
Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education

### Trustees

Mr David Cadwallader (Chairperson) \*  
Mr Robert Wyn Jones \*  
Mrs Lorraine Partington (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Jonathan Everard \*  
Miss Rajdeep Dosanjh (resigned 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023)  
Mr Kenneth Heaton  
Ms Tracy Dove  
Mr Phillip Garrigan  
Ms Maria McShane (resigned 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024)  
Mr Stephen Dunkley  
Ms Angela Bellingham (resigned 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023)  
Mr Duncan Jacques\*  
Mrs Liz Bennington (appointed 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024)\*  
Mrs Hilary Cook (appointed 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

Those marked with an asterisk \* are members of the Finance Committee.

### Company Secretary

Mr James Ray

### Senior management team

- CEO/Exec Headteacher/Accounting Officer	Mrs Gina Donaldson
- Headteacher	Mrs Nicola Rutter
- Director of School Improvement	Miss Sarah Knipe
- Headteacher/Head of Early Years	Miss Rachel Dean
- Chief Operating Officer/CFO	Mr James Ray
- Headteacher	Miss Amanda Bushell
- Headteacher	Mrs Moira Loftus
- Headteacher	Mr Richard Morris
- Headteacher/Head of SEND	Miss Charlotte Harriman
- Headteacher/Head of Curriculum	Mr Matthew Power
- Headteacher	Mrs Lavern Shelford

### Company registration number

09265723 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Unit 16 Chapel Brook Trade Park  
Wilson Road  
Huyton  
Liverpool  
L36 6FH

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Academies operated

St Silas C of E Primary School

Heygreen Community Primary School

Rainbow Trust

Garston C of E Primary School

Croxteth Community Primary School

Shoreside Primary School

St Gabriel's C of E Primary School

Townfield Primary School

The District C of E Primary School

### Location

Liverpool

Liverpool

Liverpool

Liverpool

Liverpool

Sefton

Knowsley

Wirral

St Helens

### Principal

Mr Richard Morris

Mrs Nicola Rutter

Mrs Gina Donaldson

Ms Rachel Dean

Miss Charlotte Harriman

Mr Matthew Power

Miss Amanda Bushell

Mrs Moira Loftus

Mrs Lavern Shelford

### Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP  
Ninth floor, Landmark  
St Peter's Square  
1 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 4PB

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC  
Liverpool Law Courts (306562) Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

### Solicitors

Stone King LLP  
Boundary House  
91 Charterhouse Street  
London  
EC1M 6HR

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates Academies for pupils aged up to 11 years serving a catchment area in the Merseyside and the Liverpool City Region. It has a pupil roll of 2,447 as at August 2024, with a pupil capacity of 2,354. Pupil admittance is carried out, by the Trust, in line with the Department for Education's School Admissions Policy and on the basis of the catchment area that the school resides in.

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Constitution

The Multi Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Multi Academy Trust.

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

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, The District Church of England Primary School converted into the Trust to bring the number of schools to eight, made up of four faith schools and four community schools.

#### Members' liability

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

#### Trustees' indemnities

The Trustees are indemnified in respect of their legal liability for financial losses arising as a result of a negligent act, accidental error or omission in the course of their official duties. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

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

The Trust will recruit and appoint trustees through a process of fair selection using criteria for selection based on the annual skills audit.

The Members of the company comprise:

- two individual members appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education
- Chair of the board of directors
- any person appointed under Article 16 of the Articles of Association.

The term of office for any director (other than co-opted) shall be 4 years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director, any Director may be reappointed or re-elected.

All Trustees are provided with training on appointment to enable them to undertake their duties as a Trustee. Trustees are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service checks prior to appointment.

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

All Trustees are provided with training on appointment to enable them to undertake their duties as a Trustee. It is expected that incumbent Trustees will provide practical help, guidance and encouragement in all aspects of governance.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Organisational structure

The management structure consists of three levels:

- Members
- Trustees (Directors)
- Local Governing Body

The Members have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for the Multi Academy Trust.

The Trustees retain overall responsibility for strategic planning and setting the Trust's policies.

The Local Governing Bodies have overall responsibility for holding school leaders to account and driving forward improvements in performance, attainment and progress.

The CEO / Executive Headteacher and the Executive Team oversee leadership and management of the Trust.

A scheme of delegation is in place that sets the levels of authority in which all senior staff and trustees operate. The aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility to those best able to make appropriate decisions. The Trust encourage staff contributions at all levels and collaboration between the schools in the Trust.

### Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The salary for the CEO will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to performance. The review panel will comprise of the 2 Trustees and an independent person.

The salaries / pay committee, comprising the CEO, and a minimum of 2 Trustees, will review the executive and central management team salaries and performance annually.

### Trade Union Facility Time

The Trust does not currently have any members of staff seeking trade union facility time. Trade unions are fully recognised and the Trust contributes towards pooled funds for trade union facility time.

### Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

St Silas Church of England Primary School, Heygreen Primary School, Garston Church of England Primary School, Shoreside Primary School, Croxteth Primary School, St Gabriel's Church of England Primary School, Townfield Primary School and The District Church of England Primary School work in partnership within wide and varied network. Including:

- The Dingle, Grandby and Toxteth (D.G.T) collaborative. A local network of 17 Schools within the Liverpool 8 postal code.
- Birkenhead South Network.
- SLLN: South Liverpool Learning Network.
- SLP: Southport Learning Partnership.
- SAPH: Sefton Association of Primary Heads.
- Strategic Partner: St Helens Teaching Schools Alliance and North West Maths Hub 3.
- School Improvement Liverpool, a company where David Cadwallader is employed.
- LLP: Liverpool Learning Partnership
- LPHA: Liverpool Primary Heads Association
- St Helens Headteacher Partnership Group
- St Helens First Learning Network

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

<i>Energy consumption</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year	<b>kWh</b>	<b>kWh</b>
- Gas combustion	1,626,533	1,226,976
- Fuel consumed for transport	27,244	52,686
- Electricity purchased	698,569	534,539
Total consumption	<u>2,359,974</u>	<u>1,814,201</u>
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Scope 1 – direct emissions	<b>metric tonnes</b>	<b>metric tonnes</b>
- Gas combustion	297.49	224.44
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	7.19	15.59
Scope 2 – indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	144.64	110.69
Scope 3 – other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the academy trust	-	-
Total gross emissions	<u>449.32</u>	<u>350.72</u>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.18	0.20

### Quantification and reporting methodology

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

### Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

### Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The successful bids to obtain Condition Improvement Funding grants through the Department for Education, has allowed the Trust to significantly improve energy efficiency.

Over the last four years, the Trust has upgraded the following:

- Completion of the roof replacement scheme at St Gabriel's CofE Primary School.
- New boilers installed at St Silas CofE Primary School together with upgraded heating controls.
- New boiler installed in Shoreside Primary School with heating control for classrooms and a full heating upgrade.
- Full electrical rewire at Shoreside Primary School.
- The building management system at St Silas has been upgraded to allow site staff to control heating levels across zones in school.
- Replacement of dilapidated and defective electrical components at Shoreside Primary School – removing risk of school closure from electrical socket blow out and improving the poor energy performance and efficiency within the school.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of the charitable company, in accordance with the Articles of Association, is the strategic management, development, maintenance and operation of the Trust's academies to provide a broad and balanced education for pupils with a range of abilities aged 4 – 11.

The aims of the Academy Trust are to:

- inspire and support our children to reach their full potential so that they can have a positive impact on their world
- instil within all of our children the desire to succeed and drive positive change within themselves and our community
- enable each child to achieve their potential in levels of academic maturity, creativity, physical development and independence
- educate the principles of Christian faith by promoting moral values, understanding and acceptance of other races, religions and ways of life.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy Trust's main strategic goal is to ensure that our pupils are excited by their learning in the classroom and beyond.

The main objectives of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below:

- to ensure that all high attaining children make accelerated progress in reading, writing and maths.
- to accelerate the progress of all Pupil Premium children to ensure the majority reach age related expectation.
- to improve children's speech, language and communication skills so that they have the skills needed to become effective writers.
- to develop the use of Assessment for Learning across the curriculum so that children are given appropriate feedback to develop their learning.

#### Public benefit

We acknowledge as Trustees that the Academy Trust has complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

#### Strategic Report

##### Achievement & Attainment

**Table 1** - shows the Key Stage data for the trust, this data is the final published data.

**Table 2** - shows the average scores for the Multiplication Times table Check and the percentage of children achieving full marks.

**Table 3** - shows the Key Stage One data.

**Table 4** - shows the Phonics data.

**Table 5** - shows the percentage of children who achieved a Good Level of Development at the end of Early Years.

**Table 6** – shows current Ofsted gradings and progression

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Key Stage 2

Table 1

Key Stage data for the trust, this data is the final published data.

	National		St Silas		Heygreen		Garston		Shoreside		Croxteth		St Gabriel's		Townfield		The District	
	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS	Att	SS
<b>R</b>	74%		81%	104.3	78%	104	92%	108.4	81%	107.5	76%	101.6	69%	101.9	85%	106.1	72%	103.7
<b>W</b>	72%		71%		78%		85%		81%		76%		75%		85%		75%	
<b>M</b>	73%		81%	103.3	70%	104	92%	106.2	81%	104.2	73%	101.5	59%	98.1	80%	106.7	69%	101.3
<b>Sp</b>	72%		68%	103.9	65%	103	81%	102.4	81%	105.8	73%	101.2	48%	99.8	78%	106.7	72%	104.1
<b>Sc</b>	81%		73%		74%		85%		81%		73%		77%		80%		72%	
<b>Com</b>	61%		68%		65%		80%		81%		73%		50%		75%		67%	

#### Headlines from Early Release data:

- 7/8 schools above national KS2 combined (St Gabriel's 54%)
- St Gabriel's have seen a slight drop in children achieving combined
- 6/8 schools above national in Reading
- 7/8 schools above national in Writing
- 5/8 schools above national in Maths
- 4/8 schools above national in SPAG

Table 2

Average scores for the Multiplication Times table Check and the percentage of children achieving full marks.

National *22/23		St Silas		Heygreen		Garston		Shoreside		Croxteth		St Gabriel's		Townfield		The District	
Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25	Avg Mark	% 25
20.2	29%	22.4	44.7%	20.9	43%	21.8	52%	24.5	63%	22.5	64%	23.5	63%	24.5	77%	17	17%

#### Headlines from Early Release data:

- 7/8 schools have seen an increase in percentage of children achieving 25/25

### Key Stage 1

Table 3

	National 22/23		St Silas		Heygreen		Garston		Shoreside		Croxteth		St Gabriel's		Townfield		The District	
	Att		Att		Att		Att		Att		Att		Att		Att		Att	
<b>R</b>	69%		60.5%		75%		86%		87%		58%		67%		94%		69%	
<b>W</b>	61%		60.5%		71%		79%		78%		64%		70%		78%		55%	
<b>M</b>	71%		72.1%		71%		79%		91%		66%		71%		81%		69%	
<b>Sc</b>							93%		91%		66%							

#### Headlines from Early Release data:

- 5/8 schools above national for Reading
- 6/8 schools above national for Writing
- 6/8 schools above national for Maths



# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**Table 4**

### Phonics

National 22/23		St Silas		Heygreen		Garston		Shoreside		Croxteth		St Gabriel's		Townfield		The District	
Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2
81%		79%	54%	80%	93%	88%	100%	94%	100%	81%	93%	93%	60%	98%	99%	64%	65%

**Headlines from Early Release data:**

- 6/8 schools increased results this year

**Table 5**

### Good Level of Development

National 22/23	St Silas	Heygreen	Garston	Shoreside	Croxteth	St Gabriel's	Townfield	The District
67.2%	59%	63%	72%	86%	60%	71.4%	75%	71%

**Headlines from Early Release data:**

- 2/7 schools increased results this year (Heygreen and Townfield have increased)
- 5/7 schools have seen a decrease this is cohort specific
- 5/7 schools have seen an increase in children passing in Y2(Croxteth and St Gabriel's decrease)

**Dates schools joined the trust**

St Silas (February 15), Heygreen (December 15), Garston (April 18), Shoreside (November 18), Croxteth (January 19), St Gabriel's (September 19), Townfield (September 21) and The District (April 24).

**Table 6**

### Current Ofsted Gradings

School	Previous Ofsted Grading	Current Ofsted Grading
St Silas	Good	Outstanding (2024)
Heygreen	Inadequate (2014)	Good (uplift October 2023)
Garston	Requires Improvement (2017)	Good (2022)
Shoreside	Requires Improvement (2018)	Good (2023)
Croxteth	Inadequate (2018)	Good (2023)
St Gabriel's	Requires Improvement (2018)	Good (2024)
Townfield	Good	Good (2023)
The District		Good

### Key Performance Indicators 2024-25

DELIVER EXCELLENT EDUCATION - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM		
KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
Ofsted grades Rainbow schools at least good	Each judgement	All academies are JUDGED at least good by Ofsted within 3 years of joining
Rainbow denominational schools are at least good in their SIAMS inspections	Each judgement	All academies are judged at least good in SIAMS at every inspection
Children at Rainbow academies progress and achieve and gaps are closing for vulnerable groups	Annual	*Progress and attainment data are at least in line with national averages Demonstrable evidence of closing the gap across the trust
Attendance and persistent absentee levels are at least in line with national	Annual	Attendance % across all schools are at least in line with national

*\*benchmarked via national, FFT contextualised and previous school baseline data*

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
Clear growth strategy is established and tracked to ensure growth is sustainable	Quarterly	The MAT is in a position to take on more schools without jeopardising standards in existing schools
Improved brand profile secured through enhanced website, social media presence and positive news	Quarterly	REMAT has a positive presence on social media and this supports the trusts growth
The Trust is a partner of choice for a wide range of organisations through its compelling school improvement work	Quarterly	Partnerships outside of REMAT are made and sustained

### ENSURE STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AT ALL LEVELS - CHAIR OF LAC/HEADTEACHER

KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
The Trust has an effective governance model	Annual	External review of governance recognises an effective governance model at the Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust.
Trust policies are rationalised, compliant and rolled out in lined with the Trust's scheme of delegation	Annual	External review of governance recognises an effective governance model at the Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust.

### BUILD A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE - CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
The Trust is compliant with the Academies Handbook	Quarterly	All "musts" in the Academy Trust Handbook are met
Financial audits show controls are robust. VFM principles are applied through effective procurement	Annual	Clean audit report
Health and Safety compliance is centrally tracked and monitored to promote safer working practices	Annual	External health and safety audits

### BECOME AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE - CENTRAL TEAM

KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
Staff voice, rates of absence and attrition indicate a positive staff culture in all schools/teams	Quarterly	Low staff absence and attrition Positive staff voice
Employee and governor profile is increasingly diverse and representative	Annual	Higher % of diversity across staff team
Coherent CPD programme promotes personal effectiveness and career development for all	Quarterly	Better national averages

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

DRIVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH - CEO/COO		
KPI	Frequency of Measurement	Success Criteria
Clear growth strategy is established and tracked to ensure growth is sustainable	Quarterly	The MAT is in a position to take on more schools without jeopardising standards in existing schools
Improved brand profile secured through enhanced website, social media presence and positive news	Quarterly	REMAT has a positive presence on social media and this supports the trusts growth
The Trust is a partner of choice for a wide range of organisations through its compelling school improvement work	Quarterly	Partnerships outside of REMAT are made and sustained

### Promoting the success of the charitable company

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so the Trustees have regard to:

- The likely consequences of any decision in the long term – strong governance of the Trust, supported by an experienced executive team, leads to decisions being made with the strategic plan and the Trust's vision at the forefront. Ultimately, it is the education and safety of our children that informs decisions at every level.
- The interests of the company's employees – see further information on p.17
- The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others – see further information on p.17
- The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment – through our estates strategy, the Trust constantly updates inefficient practices and strives to upgrade to more energy efficiency through capital improvement projects. The children are taught environmental responsibility through the school curriculum and they are encouraged to participate in practical initiatives.
- The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct – we endeavour to build trusted relationships with our school communities, suppliers, delivery partners and funding bodies. At heart of these relationships are the Trust values of *excellence, trust, friendship, endurance* and *wisdom*. Safer recruitment, continuous professional development and appraisals reinforces these values with staff.
- The need to act fairly between members of the company – the Trust ensures that its staff, local academy counsellors, trustees and members are treated fairly through having a clear vision for the Trust, which is communicated throughout the organisation by strong leaders through a robust strategy and strong internal controls. The Trust respects and celebrates the diversity within our communities and is committed to providing an environment which ensures that all children and staff are treated with dignity and respect. A positive working environment is the aim of the Trust: free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust has more than 250 employees and falls into the category of a large company.

Our mission is to flourish together as we listen, learn, lead, list and love. The Trustees use the National Governance Associate Framework for Ethical Leadership in Education as the basis for decision making.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from Department for Education in the form of a General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to the objects of the Trust. The GAG received during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £16,823,000 (2023: £15,600,000), was covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £1,184,000 (2023: deficit of £(438,000)).

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £24,074,000 (2023: £23,755,000). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in notes 13 and 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy Trust.

The landscape in the academy sector continues to be a challenging one but the Trust have worked very hard to increase its unrestricted reserves and ensures that it complies with DfE guidelines around the levels of reserves held. Costs continue to rise and funding doesn't always keep pace with these rises, however, all the schools in the Trust have met these challenges head on and have done some excellent work in keeping costs to a minimum. The conversion of The District Church of England Primary School has also certainly helped in this area.

As at 31 August 2024, the restricted general funds plus unrestricted funds balance (not including pension reserve) was £27,743,000 (2023: £24,507,000) and the surplus for the year was £3,236,000 (2023: deficit of £(298,000)).

The conversion of The District Church of England Primary School on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 included the transfer of all assets and liabilities into the Trust. On conversion, the restricted fixed asset fund balance was £3,001,000 and the general fund was £684,000.

### Going concern

Despite the challenges faced by the Trust, and the sector as a whole, the Trust is pleased to report an in-year surplus and a increase in unrestricted reserves. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees consider that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt an ongoing concern basis in preparing the financial statements. The Trustees are satisfied, having viewed budgets and cash flow forecasts that the Trust is in a relatively healthy financial position, particularly when considering the levels of reserves that the Trust has in place.

The Trust continues to plan for growth and will continue to work with schools and invite them to join the Trust, should this be beneficial for both parties. Trustees believe that the Trust has the structure and mechanisms in place to increase its cohort of schools and still operate efficiently across existing and new schools. A successful TCaF bid has allowed the Trust to increase capacity within shared services team and has led to the creation of a Director of School Improvement role, which will be of huge benefit to existing schools and any future schools.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, The District C of E Primary School joined the primary faith schools within the Trust. The school is another excellent addition and has brought a financial boost to the Trust, as well as bringing with it a willingness to collaborate and share best practice.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 29 and comply with the charitable company's memorandum and articles of association, applicable laws and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2015.

### Reserves policy

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

The Trustees will endeavour to keep an appropriate level of funds in reserve that it considers necessary for future operations and capital projects. Such reserves will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and a contingency fund to deal with any unexpected emergencies.

As at 31 August 2024 the level of Trust reserves held in restricted funds not available for general purposes is £25,351,000 (2023: £22,085,000) plus a balance of unrestricted general funds of £669,000 (2023: £476,000) giving a net surplus of £26,071,000 (2023: £22,561,000).

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Investment policy

The Trustees review on an annual basis the need to invest any substantial reserves.

### **Plans for future periods**

The Academy Trust will continue to strive to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels and will continue its efforts to ensure its students make a smooth and successful transition into secondary education.

The Trust will continue to build capacity to enable it to support additional schools across the Merseyside City Region.

#### Financial and risk management

As required by the Companies Act 2006, the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks. There is minimal exposure to financial and liquidity risks as the Trust deals with largely bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors.

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The major risks, to which the academy is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks.

The Academy Trust has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management, which is designed to protect the Trust's assets and reputation. A risk register is maintained and is reviewed annually by the Trustees and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are to be prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

The risk register in place identified and reviewed the following risk areas to the Trust:

- Safeguarding
- Reputational
- Physical
- Infrastructure
- Governance
- Staffing
- Students
- Financial
- Business continuity

### **Fundraising**

The Trust conducts fundraising activities which support income generation including:

- Lettings
- Training events
- School led events
- Support provided by National Leaders of Education and Specialist Leaders of Education employed by the Trust

All fundraising activity is administered via appropriate staff employed by the Trust and support Trust objectives.

Occasionally the Academy Trust engages approved commercial participators within our fundraising activities, such as school photography sessions and agency supply where the Trust receives a commission in line with the volume of sales activity. The Trust monitored this through the engagement of senior staff and no complaints have ever been received by any parent or member of the public with regards to the processes the Trust use to fundraise. The Trust only ever seeks voluntary contributions and participators are always instructed not to unreasonably intrude on a person's privacy, unreasonably persist with an individual for the purpose of procuring money and to ensure that no undue pressure is placed on anyone to give money or other property.

### **Auditor**

RSM UK Audit LLP have indicated a willingness to remain in office.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Statement as to disclosure of information to auditor

The Trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the 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 communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the strategic report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

*David Cadwallader*

David Cadwallader  
**Chair of Trustees**

18/12/24

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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### Scope of responsibility

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

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the any material weaknesses or breakdown in internal control.

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

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trustees have formally met three times during the year.

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr Francis Maguire*	0	0
Mr David Cadwallader (Chairperson)	2	3
Mr Robert Wyn Jones	2	3
Mrs Lorraine Partington (Vice Chairperson)	0	3
Mr Jonathan Everard	0	3
Miss Sara Ngenda	0	0
Miss Rajdeep Dosanjh	0	0
Mr Chad Thompson*	0	0
Mr Kenneth Heaton	3	3
Mrs Liz Bennington **	1	1
Ms Tracy Dove	3	3
Mr Phillip Garrigan	2	3
Ms Maria McShane	0	3
Mr Stephen Dunkley	3	3
Ms Angela Bellingham	1	1
Mr Duncan Jacques	3	3
Ms Hilary Cook	1	1
Mr Stuart Harrison (LDBE)*	0	0

\* Members do not attend trustee's meetings.

\*\* Liz Bennington was a member for most of the year but resigned from the member board and joined the trustee board prior to the last meeting of the academic year. Liz attended the last trustee meeting of the year.

Trustees were informed and approved of the Trust's financial position through the year via online updates, in view of the fact that face to face meetings have become more problematic to arrange.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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The following Trustees also form the Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee: Dave Cadwallader, Jonathan Everard, Robert Wyn Jones, Liz Bennington and Duncan Jacques.

Rajdeep Dosanjh resigned on 30/11/2023 and the vacancy Rajdeep left on the Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee was filled by Maria McMahon – a local academy councillor from Croxteth Community Primary School. Maria is an internal auditor by profession.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
Mr David Cadwallader (Chairperson)	3	3
Mr Robert Wyn Jones	2	3
Mr Jonathan Everard	1	3
Miss Rajdeep Dosanjh	1	1
Mr Duncan Jacques	3	3
Ms Maria McMahon	2	2

### **Review of value for money**

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

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

- concentrating on the quality of teaching and learning throughout the trust, with this being led by recognised practitioners at each key stage. One outcome can be seen in significantly improved scores reported in this narrative.
- The Trust has focused on targeted improvement linked to the School Development Plan of the Academy to ensure maximum impact on outcomes for pupils in these key areas. This has included ensuring that all schools deliver a broad and balanced trust wide curriculum offer to all children.

The Trust development plan have focused on improving the quality of teaching by ensuring all teaching staff understand the science of learning and formative assessment.

The schools continue to actively promote the wider use of digital media to further engage pupils in their learning and to accelerate their progress across all subjects. All schools continue to provide experimental learning opportunities for all children to widen their understanding of the world. These experiences have a positive impact on behaviour and attainment, especially in writing across the school.

As a result of the increasing emotional and social needs presented by children, the Academy has developed the pastoral support team by appointed a fully trained and qualified social worker to work in partnership with the Child Development and Welfare Officer to support all children and families who attend a trust school.

### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process, designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.



# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Capacity to handle risk

The Trustees have 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 are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trusts' significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the trust.

### 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 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 Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal control function and, for this financial year, appointed Haines Watts as internal auditor.

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

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of governance
- testing of capital projects

On an annual basis, internal audit reports to the Board of Trustees on the operations of the systems of control and on discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial discharge.

The Academy Trust maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. The information on the register is checked against new supplier requests as part of the day-to-day management and governance and to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

### Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal reviewer;
- 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 Board of Trustees and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

### Managing Conflict of Interests

A register of interest is maintained and is kept up to date by the Trust's governance officer. By maintaining an up to date register of interests, the Trust can ensure that it is reducing the risk of a conflict and if one becomes apparent, then the Trust can act accordingly.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

In line with the Companies (Miscellaneous Reporting) Regulations 2018, the trust has taken action during the period to introduce, maintain and developed arrangements aimed at:

- providing employees with information on matters of concern to them.
- consulted employees, or their representatives, regularly so that the views of employees can be considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests.
- encouraged the involvement of employees in the trust's performance.
- looked to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the factors affecting the performance of the trust.
- Developed policies in respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and the training, career development and promotion of disabled people.

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

The Trust have had regard to the need to foster the company's business relationship with suppliers, customers and others. The governance register of business interests is published on the Trust website. Moreover, the Trust will always ensure best value when making business decisions; in the case of a declared business interest this will involve obtaining three quotes whenever the value of the transaction is over £10,000.

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

*David Cadwallader*

David Cadwallader  
Chairperson  
Date: 18/12/24

*Gina Donaldson*

Gina Donaldson  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 18/12/24

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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As Accounting Officer of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding 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 Academies Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety management, under the funding agreement.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Handbook 2023.

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

*Gina Donaldson*

Mrs Gina Donaldson  
**Accounting Officer**

18/12/24

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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The Trustees (who also act as directors for Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report (including the strategic report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring 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 financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

*David Cadwallader*

**David Cadwallader**  
**Chair of Trustees**

18/12/24

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust (the “charitable company”) for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities: including the Income & Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the 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 Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

## Basis for opinion

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

## Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the 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 Trustees’ report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The trustees’ are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees’ report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

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

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

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

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

## Responsibilities of Trustees'

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 19, the trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

## The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

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In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Education and Skills Funding Agency's Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education Act 2005 (as amended), Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business and challenging judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website.. 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.

*John Guest*

JOHN GUEST (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants

Ninth floor, Landmark  
St Peter's Square  
1 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 4PB

Date 18/12/24

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	17	307	460	784	825
Conversion of maintained school into the academy trust	27	-	-	3,001	3,001	-
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	15,304	-	15,304	13,627
Other trading activities	5	1,226	-	-	1,226	710
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,243</u>	<u>15,611</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>20,315</u>	<u>15,162</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	30	16,324	469	16,823	15,600
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>30</u>	<u>16,324</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>16,823</u>	<u>15,600</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		1,213	(713)	2,992	3,492	(438)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	38	-	38	1,598
Transfers between funds		(1,020)	969	51	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		193	294	3,043	3,530	1,160
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		476	(1,966)	24,031	22,541	21,401
Total funds carried forward		<u>669</u>	<u>(1,672)</u>	<u>27,074</u>	<u>26,071</u>	<u>22,561</u>



**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST****BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	2024 £'000	£'000	2023 £'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible & intangible assets	13 & 14		27,074		23,755
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	1,267		1,237	
Cash at bank and in hand		823		1,257	
			2,090		2,494
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,421)		(1,742)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			669		752
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			27,743		24,507
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		(1,672)		(1,946)
<b>Total net assets</b>			26,071		22,561
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	18				
- Restricted fixed asset funds			27,074		24,031
- Restricted income funds			-		-
- Pension reserve			(1,672)		(1,946)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			25,402		22,085
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18		669		476
<b>Total funds</b>			26,071		22,561

The financial statements on pages 22 to 44 were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

*Gina Donaldson*

Mrs Gina Donaldson  
Accounting Officer

18/12/24

*David Cadwallader*

David Cadwallader  
Chairperson

18/12/24

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	£'000	2023 £'000	£'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	22		(111)		98
			<u>(111)</u>		<u>98</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Capital grants from DfE Group		460		817	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		-		8	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(783)</u>		<u>(1,486)</u>	
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>			<u>(323)</u>		<u>(661)</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(434)		(563)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			<u>1,257</u>		<u>1,820</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			<u>823</u>		<u>1,257</u>

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### General information

Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Trustees' report.

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

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust 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 financial statements 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. The academy trust is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the academy trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

##### 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 are satisfied, having viewed budgets and cash flow forecasts that the Trust is in a healthy financial position, particularly when considering the levels of reserves that the Trust has in place. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### Income

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

##### 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

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.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### 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 at fair value of the consideration received or receivable in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

##### Transfer from local authority on conversion

The District Church of England Primary School's conversion from a state maintained school into the Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis, as set out below.

The net assets transferred on conversion of The District Church of England Primary School to the Trust have been valued at their fair values. The fair value has been derived from based on the equivalent items. The amount has been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations, in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds. The value of Land & Buildings of The District was carried out by an independent expert on conversion. Similarly, the pension value was calculated by a qualified firm of actuaries. Further details of the transactions are set out in note 27.

##### **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 to further its charitable aims for the benefit of the beneficiaries, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding 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, so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land and buildings	2% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% straight line

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

##### 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 of services it must provide.

##### Leased assets

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

##### Financial instruments

The academy trust has chosen to adopt Sections 11 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

##### 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.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### **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'), which are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently there is insufficient information to use defined benefit accounting, it is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately. 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 reporting date. The amounts charged to net income 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 as other comprehensive income. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately as other comprehensive income.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately as other comprehensive income. The LGPS assets are managed by the scheme trustees at scheme level, and the determination/allocation of assets, to each individual employer of the scheme, is managed by the scheme actuary. The assets are allocated to each employer for accounting purposes, based on the valuation of the assets at the latest triennial valuation. This is adjusted for subsequent contributions received from the employer, asset returns and benefit payments made. The retirement benefit obligation recognised, represents the deficit in the defined benefit plan.

##### **Fund accounting**

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

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

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

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 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.

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

##### Critical areas of judgement

The value of the Trust's share of net assets of the Merseyside Pension Fund Scheme has been restricted due to the effect of asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	<b>Unrestricted funds £'000</b>	<b>Restricted funds £'000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £'000</b>
Capital grants	-	460	460	817
Other donations	17	307	324	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	767	784	825
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The income from donations and capital grants was £784,000 (2023: £825,000) of which £17,000 was unrestricted (2023: £8,000) and £767,000 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £817,000).

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	10,603	10,603	9,577
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	244	244	207
Pupil Premium	-	1,393	1,393	1,299
Other DfE group grants	-	1,198	1,198	1,116
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,438</u>	<u>13,438</u>	<u>12,199</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	1,866	1,866	1,428
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,304</u>	<u>15,304</u>	<u>13,627</u>

#### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Other income	1,226	-	1,226	710
	<u>1,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>710</u>

The income from other trading activities was £1,226,000 (2023: £710,000) of which £1,226,000 was unrestricted (2023: £710,000).

#### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Interest from short term deposits	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The income from funding for investment income was £nil (2023: £nil) of which £nil was unrestricted (2023: £nil).



# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	10,675	-	348	11,023	10,263
- Allocated support costs	2,166	2,015	1,619	5,800	5,337
	<u>12,841</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>1,967</u>	<u>16,823</u>	<u>15,600</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:</b>				<b>2024 £'000</b>	<b>2023 £'000</b>
Operating lease rentals				411	400
Depreciation of tangible and intangible fixed assets				469	406
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability				64	130
Fees payable to RSM UK Audit LLP and its associates in respect of both audit					
- Audit				36	28
- Other services				5	5
				<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	11,023	11,023	10,038
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	30	5,770	5,800	5,562
	<u>30</u>	<u>16,793</u>	<u>16,823</u>	<u>15,600</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £16,823,000 (2023: £15,600,000) of which £30,000 was unrestricted (2023: £36,000), £16,793,000 was restricted (2023: £15,564,000) and £469,000 was restricted fixed assets (2023: £406,000).

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	2,166	2,075
Depreciation and amortisation	469	406
Premises costs	1,546	1,368
Legal costs	751	650
Other support costs	817	1,023
Governance costs	51	40
	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,562</u>

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 9 Staff

##### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Wages and salaries	9,885	8,925
Social security costs	943	803
Pension costs	2,012	2,004
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	12,840	11,732
Agency staff costs	148	225
Staff restructuring costs	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,988	11,963
Staff development and other staff costs	85	74
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	13,073	12,037
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	6
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

##### Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

No severance payments were made to exiting staff during the year.

##### Staff numbers

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	115	111
Administration and support	243	241
Management	9	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	367	360
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

##### Higher paid staff

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	5	4
£70,001 - £80,000	3	-
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	2
£120,000 - £130,000	1	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 9 Staff (continued)

##### 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) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,057,925 (2023: £717,949).

#### 10 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- procurement services;
- educational support services;
- estates management;
- payroll services;
- media and marketing services;
- governance services.

The academy trust charges for these services on the basis of costs incurred.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
St Silas C of E Primary School	367	213
Heygreen Community Primary School	15	-
Rainbow Trust	-	-
Garston C of E Primary School	158	-
Croxteth Community Primary School	99	-
Shoreside Primary School	(81)	-
St Gabriel's C of E Primary School	(11)	-
Townfield Primary School	(68)	15
The District C of E Primary School	90	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	569	228
	<hr/>	<hr/>

#### 11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the Trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

Expenses paid to trustees in relation to travel expenses during the year amounted to £nil (2023: £nil).

#### 12 Trustees and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was not separately identifiable, but is included within the total insurance cost.

**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**13 Intangible fixed assets**

	<b>Computer Software £'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 September 2023	-
Additions	5
At 31 August 2024	<u>5</u>
<b>Amortisation</b>	
At 1 September 2023	-
Disposals	-
Charge for the year	1
At 31 August 2024	<u>1</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 August 2024	<u>4</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>-</u>

**14 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and buildings £'000</b>	<b>Computer equipment £'000</b>	<b>Fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000</b>	<b>Total £'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2023	25,007	193	286	25,486
Received on conversion	3,001	-	-	3,001
Additions	492	247	44	783
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>28,500</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>29,270</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	1,454	134	143	1,731
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	356	60	53	469
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,810</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>2,200</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	<u>26,690</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>27,070</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>23,553</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>23,755</u>

**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**15 Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Trade debtors	42	26
VAT recoverable	101	175
Prepayments and accrued income	1,124	1,036
	<u>1,267</u>	<u>1,237</u>

**16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Trade creditors	421	724
Other taxation and social security	217	165
Other creditors	263	191
Accruals and deferred income (see note 17)	520	662
	<u>1,421</u>	<u>1,742</u>

**17 Deferred income**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	175	127
	<u>175</u>	<u>127</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	127	118
Released from previous years	(127)	(118)
Resources deferred in the year	175	127
	<u>175</u>	<u>127</u>
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2024</b>	<u>175</u>	<u>127</u>

At the Balance Sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance, primarily for Free School Meals.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,603	(11,572)	969	-
Universal Infant FSM	-	244	(244)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,393	(1,393)	-	-
Other DfE group grants	-	1,198	(1,198)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	1,866	(1,866)	-	-
Transferred in following maintained school conversion	-	307	(307)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,966)	-	256	38	(1,672)
	<u>(1,966)</u>	<u>15,611</u>	<u>(16,324)</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>(1,672)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	18,692	3,001	(365)	-	21,328
DfE group capital grants	4,709	460	(92)	-	5,077
Private sector capital sponsorship	630	-	(12)	51	669
	<u>24,031</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>(469)</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>27,074</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>22,065</u>	<u>19,072</u>	<u>(16,793)</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>25,402</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	476	1,243	(30)	(1,020)	669
	<u>476</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(1,020)</u>	<u>669</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>22,541</u>	<u>20,315</u>	<u>(16,823)</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>26,071</u>

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

#### Restricted general fund

This fund represents grants received for the Academy's operational activities and development.

#### Fixed assets fund

These grants relate to funding from the DfE, ESFA and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital nature as part of the school improvement plan.

#### Other restricted funds

These funds relate to monies received from the local government, private sector and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital or revenue nature.

#### Unrestricted funds

This fund primarily relates to income from lettings, staff secondments and teaching school income.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 18 Funds (Continued)

##### Funds prior year

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	9,577	(10,968)	1,391	-
Universal Infant FSM	-	207	(207)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,299	(1,299)	-	-
Other DfE group grants	-	1,133	(1,133)	-	-
Local Authority Grants	-	1,428	(1,428)	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,404)	(17)	(123)	1,598	(1,946)
	<u>(3,404)</u>	<u>13,627</u>	<u>(15,158)</u>	<u>2,989</u>	<u>(1,946)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Transfer on conversion	19,019	-	(327)	-	18,692
DfE group capital grants	3,960	817	(68)	-	4,709
Private sector capital sponsorship	641	-	(11)	-	630
	<u>23,620</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>(406)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,031</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>20,216</u>	<u>14,444</u>	<u>(15,564)</u>	<u>2,989</u>	<u>22,085</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	1,185	718	(36)	(1,391)	476
	<u>1,185</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(1,391)</u>	<u>476</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>21,401</u>	<u>15,162</u>	<u>(15,600)</u>	<u>1,598</u>	<u>22,561</u>



**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**18 Funds (Continued)**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Rainbow Trust	223	476
Heygreen Primary School	199	-
The District CofE Primary School	247	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	669	476
Restricted fixed asset fund	27,074	24,031
Pension reserve	(1,672)	(1,946)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	<u>26,071</u>	<u>22,561</u>

The Trust does GAG pooling and as such individual schools within the Trust no longer hold funds balance and all funds are held within the central trust. The exception to this are Heygreen Primary School, as they are a PFI school and the PFI element of their funding should stay with the school, and also The District CofE Primary School. All new convertor schools are permitted to retain their reserves for a period of time, on joining the Trust.

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff £'000</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £'000</b>	<b>Educational supplies £'000</b>	<b>Other costs excluding depreciation £'000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £'000</b>
St Silas C of E Primary School	1,809	206	44	379	2,439	2,623
Heygreen Community Primary School	1,133	98	39	498	1,768	1,753
Rainbow Trust	205	535	24	216	980	796
Garston C of E Primary School	1,018	199	37	257	1,512	1,563
Croxteth Community Primary School	1,502	269	44	389	2,204	2,147
Shoreside Primary School	989	154	23	224	1,390	1,364
St Gabriel's C of E Primary School	1,092	171	42	306	1,611	1,738
Townfield Primary School	2,028	364	76	539	3,007	2,892
Teaching School Hub	161	54	3	244	461	319
The District CofE Primary School	737	115	16	115	983	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>10,674</u>	<u>2,166</u>	<u>348</u>	<u>3,167</u>	<u>16,354</u>	<u>15,195</u>

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible and intangible fixed assets	-	-	27,074	27,074
Current assets	669	1,421	-	2,090
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,421)	-	(1,421)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,672)	-	(1,672)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>(1,672)</b>	<b>27,074</b>	<b>26,071</b>

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,755	23,755
Current assets	476	1,742	276	2,494
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,742)	-	(1,742)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,946)	-	(1,946)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>(1,946)</b>	<b>24,031</b>	<b>22,561</b>

#### 20 Capital commitments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	121	377

#### 21 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts due within one year	411	400
Amounts due between one and five years	1,575	1,619
Amounts due after five years	975	1,381
	<b>2,961</b>	<b>3,400</b>

The Trust occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The Trust itself is not party to this service concession contract, however, the Trust has entered into a supporting agreement for the costs of the local authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments including costs for catering, cleaning, utilities and other ancillary services.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 22 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	4,176	(438)
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion of maintained school	(3,685)	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(460)	(825)
Interest receivable	-	-
Defined benefit pension scheme costs less contributions payable	(342)	(10)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	64	130
Other operating charges in relation to defined benefit schemes	17	20
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	468	406
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	1	-
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
(Increase) in debtors	(30)	305
Increase in creditors	(321)	510
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(111)</u>	<u>98</u>

#### 23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2024 £'000
Cash	1,257	(434)	823

#### 24 Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he 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.

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2024, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2024.

Contributions amounting to £261,415 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £189,480) and are included within creditors.

During the year, The District Church of England Primary School transferred into the Trust. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred with The District Church of England Primary School to the Trust, representing their cumulative service to the predecessor employer, was recognised in the SoFA, as part of the gain on transfer, as set out in note 27.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 25 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' Pensions 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS, following enrolment. DfE has agreed to pay a teacher's pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2023-24 academic year.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer.

The academy trust has set out below the information available on the scheme:

###### 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 2023 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate, as there was no cost control mechanism breach.

The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016: £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI) (this change has had the greatest financial significance)

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 28.68% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation, including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,258,000 (2023: £975,000).

The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

##### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,065,000 (2023: £924,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £796,000 (2023: £722,000) and employees' contributions totalled £269,000 (2023: £202,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.7-19.6% per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5% per cent for employees.

The LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

<b>Total contributions made</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Employer's contributions	1,021	863
Employees' contributions	275	243
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	1,296	1,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2016 updated to 31 August 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	5.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	20.8	20.8
- Females	23.4	23.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.0	22.1
- Females	25.1	25.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**25 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)**

<b>The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>Fair value</b> <b>£'000</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>Fair value</b> <b>£'000</b>
Equities	5,962	3,652
Bonds	729	525
Property	1,267	841
Other assets	3,252	1,998
Total fair value of assets	<u>11,210</u>	<u>7,016</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £693,000 (2023: £213,000).

<b>Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£'000</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£'000</b>
Current service cost	679	853
Net interest cost	64	130
Other operating charges in relation to defined benefit scheme	22	20
Plan introductions, changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Total operating charge	<u>765</u>	<u>1,003</u>

<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£'000</b>
At 1 September 2023	8,982
Obligations acquired on conversion	1,713
Current service cost	679
Interest cost	515
Employee contributions	275
Actuarial (gain)/loss	94
Benefits paid	(168)
Past service cost	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>12,090</u>

**RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**25 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)**

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

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£'000</b>
At 1 September 2023	7,016
Assets acquired on conversion	2,397
Interest income	451
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	240
Employer contributions	1,021
Employee contributions	275
Benefits paid	(168)
Admin expenses	(22)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	11,210
	<hr/> <hr/>

The Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust is aware that the Court of Appeal has recently upheld the decision in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited case. The decision puts into question the validity of any amendments made in respect of the rules of a contracted-out pension scheme between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. The judgment means that some historic amendments affecting s.9(2B) rights could be void if the necessary actuarial confirmation under s.37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not obtained. Until further investigations have been completed by the LGPS UK Government's Actuary's Department and/or any legislative action taken by the government, the potential impact if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

**Net asset restriction**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£'000</b>
Fair value of plan assets	11,210
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(12,090)
	<hr/>
Net asset	(880)
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(792)
	<hr/>
Net liability recognised in the Balance Sheet	(1,672)
	<hr/> <hr/>

The value of the Trust's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

**26 Related party transactions**

All transactions involving related parties or connected parties are in accordance with the requirements of the AFH, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures, unless otherwise stated.

Purchases of £137,134, not inclusive of VAT, (2023: £100,800) were made from School Improvements Liverpool, a company where David Cadwallader, Chair of Trustee Board, is employed. Included within trade creditors are amounts of £10,648 (2023: £6,775) owed to School Improvement Liverpool.

# RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 27 Schools transferred from Local Authority on conversion

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, The District Church of England Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and assets and liabilities were transferred to Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust from St Helens local authority for £nil consideration.

The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings, with a corresponding net amount recognised as net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £'000</b>	<b>General £'000</b>	<b>Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £'000</b>
<b>Net assets transferred:</b>					
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	3,001	3,001	-
Fixtures & fittings	-	-	-	-	-
Computer equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Pension Scheme	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
Cash	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>-</b>



# **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

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## **Conclusion**

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 April 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Rainbow Education Multi Academy 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.

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

## **Basis for conclusion**

The framework that has been applied is set out in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. We are independent of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

## **Responsibilities of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and trustees**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 November 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and appointment of the accounting officer.

## **Reporting Accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity**

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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

We 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.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academy Trust Handbook 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a risk of material irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO RAINBOW EDUCATION MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

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This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 November 2022. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

*RSM UK Audit LLP*

### **RSM UK AUDIT LLP**

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Date 18/12/24