

**Company registration number 07458484 (England and Wales)**

**LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Mrs D Makinson  
Mrs M Burke  
Mr T Tipping  
Mr G Roberts

### Trustees

Mr J Shepley (Chair of Trustees)  
Mrs A Sultan (Vice Chair)  
Mr D Crosby  
Mrs K Dugdale  
Mrs K James (Head Teacher)  
Mrs S Qader  
Mrs F Umal  
Mrs K Alam  
Mrs M Patel (Appointed on 09.10.23)  
Mr A Patel (Resigned 12.12.23)

### Senior management team

- Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- School Business Manager
- Senior Teaching Assistant
- Pastoral Lead
- Head of KS1
- Head of KS2

Mrs K James  
Mrs M Tipping  
Mrs C Wooton  
Mrs C Concannon  
Mrs M Prescott  
Mrs J Broadhurst  
Miss R Heppolette  
Mrs G Wolstenholme

### Company registration number

07458484 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Lever Edge Lane  
Bolton  
BL3 3HP

### Independent auditor

DJH Audit Limited  
Bridge House  
Ashley Road  
Hale  
Altrincham  
WA14 2UT

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc  
Hotel Street  
Bolton  
BL1 1DB

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts 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 and strategic report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 2 to 11 in Bolton, with 523 pupils on roll on the School Census in the Autumn Term 2023.

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

##### Constitution

The academy was incorporated on 2 December 2010 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital, registration no: 07458484. The company commenced operation as an academy on 1 January 2011. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy. The initial members of the charitable company were nominated by the board of trustees of Lever Edge Primary Academy. The Articles of Association require the members of the charitable company to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the academy.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees

The trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and all are trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

The trustees who were in office at 31 August 2023 and served during the year are listed on page 1.

##### Trustees' indemnities

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

##### Principal activities

The principal objective and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Lever Edge Primary Academy to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 11 in the catchment area of Great Lever. In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Governance" approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

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

Parent trustees are appointed through a nomination and then ballot system. If there is more than one volunteer a ballot system is then used. The other trustees are recommended to the board of trustees from the wider local community. All trustees hold a period of office of 4 years then re-election is sought.

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

During the year under review the trustees held three full board of trustee's meetings and three finance and personnel sub-committee meetings. The training and induction provided for new trustees is a mixture of in house training and/or bespoke training provided by the Local Authority, Governor Services Training Department. Training requirements are identified from the skills audit which is undertaken annually. All trustees undertake annual mandatory training on child protection and safeguarding. Where necessary, induction includes training on charity, educational, legal and finance. All trustees will be given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet staff and pupils. Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents to enable them to undertake their role. Every trustee has a key responsibility area, such as English, Maths etc., and are allocated a year group who they work with throughout the year to enhance their understanding of how the school works.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### Organisational structure

The academy's unified management structure has four levels, the members, trustees, the senior leadership team (including the school business manager) and the phase leaders, who lead their departments. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the academy by the use of budgets and making proper decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The SLT comprises of the head teacher, a deputy head teacher, one assistant head, pastoral lead, Head of KS1, Head of KS2, the school business manager and lead teaching assistant. The SLT controls the academy at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them.

As a group, the SLT is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment panels for posts within the SLT always include a member of the board of trustees. Some spending and budgetary control is devolved to the school business manager, senior managers and subject leads, with limits, above which authorisation must be sought and countersigned by a senior member of staff.

### Risk management

The academy produced a formal, written risk register last year. In this register, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

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

Pay and remuneration of all personnel within the school is based upon the performance management process. Pay increases are based upon a successful performance management review.

Senior leaders within the school have performance management targets based upon pupil progress targets and leadership and management targets.

All senior leaders, other than the head teacher, are performance managed by the head teacher. The head teacher then makes recommendations to the trustees' pay committee regarding pay increments.

The trustees then decide whether to approve the head teacher recommendations or not.

The head teacher's performance management is carried out by three trustees at the school (including the chair of trustees and the vice chair of trustees), supported by an independent Performance Management Advisor.

The head teacher's performance management trustees then make a recommendation on pay to the trustees' pay committee. The decision on the head teacher's pay is then taken by the pay committee.

Although the school is an academy, and is not obliged to follow the School Teachers Pay and Condition Document, the trustees do use the structures and recommendations within this document to inform pay decisions for all the senior leaders at the school.

### Trade union facility time

The academy does not have any trade union facility time.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The academy trust is not connected to, or related to, any other organisations as defined by the relevant Charities SORP. The members, trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definition in the Charities SORP. All transactions with such parties are conducted in accordance with the academy financial regulations and procurement procedures.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objects and aims

Lever Edge Primary Academy is non-selective and offers all pupils a broad curriculum. The pupils who attend live mainly in South Bolton, although some travel from further afield. To assist academic study, the academy runs a breakfast club, booster classes and 1:1 provision for identified pupils. The academy also offers its pupils activities and experiences beyond the academic, with coaching in various sports, including cricket, rugby, gymnastics, dance, swimming etc. Various visits and other offsite activities are organised throughout the year to broaden and deepen pupils' life experiences and to stimulate their imagination and learning.

##### Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the academy are summarised below:-

- to ensure that each pupil at the school achieves their full potential by receiving teaching and learning opportunities of the highest standard;
- to develop the learning environment by investment in new facilities and refurbishment of existing areas;
- to promote learning within a disciplined and respectful environment; and
- to promote the personal development and well-being of all pupils and employees.

##### Equal opportunities policy

The trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The academy aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

##### Disabled persons

External ramps and disabled toilets are installed and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to the main areas of the academy. The policy of the academy is to support recruitment and retention of pupils and employees with disabilities. The academy does this by adapting the physical environment, by making support resources available and through training and career development.

##### Public benefit

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



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### Strategic report

#### Achievements and Performance

The National Free School Meals Voucher Scheme was again utilised by the Academy during the school holiday periods.

#### Achievements and Key Performance Indicators

The academy continues to achieve results above the national average at age expectation, both at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, demonstrating very good progress.

### Achievement Data 2024

#### End of Key Stage Assessment Results 2024

 = At or above 2024 National  
NB: 99% OF PUPILS COME FROM THE 30% MOST DEPRIVED AREAS

#### End of EYFS Data

Percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development: -

	Comprehension	Word Reading	Writing	Number	Numerical Patterns	GLD
	Expected Standard	Expected Standard	Expected Standard	Expected Standard	Expected Standard	Expected Standard
2024 School	80%	80%	70%	78%	77%	68%
2023 School	90%	85%	70%	83%	83%	70%
2024 National	70%	70%	70%	77%	77%	68%

#### Year 1 Phonic Screening Test

Percentage of pupils achieving the Expected Standard in Year 1:

Working at Expected Standard 2024	National 2024
90%	80%

#### End KS1 Phonic Screening Test

Percentage of pupils achieving the Expected Standard by End of KS1:

Working at Expected Standard 2024	National 2024
97%	89%

#### End of Key Stage 1 Data

	Reading		Writing		Maths		Reading, Writing and Maths		
	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth		Expected Standard	Greater Depth
2024 School	82%	23%	73%	20%	87%	27%	2023 School	82%	15%
2023 School	72%	15%	69%	13%	74%	23%	2022 School	62%	7%
2023 National (No 2024 National)	68%	19%	60%	8%	70%	16%	2023 National (No 2024 National)	56%	6%



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### End of Key Stage 2 Data

	Reading		Writing		Maths		Grammar	
	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth	Expected Standard	Greater Depth
2024 School	82%	26%	81%	24%	93%	30%	87%	52%
2023 School	78%	22%	88%	33%	92%	20%	90%	47%
2024 National	74%	28%	72%	12%	73%	23%	72%	31%

#### Combined Reading, Writing and Maths

	RWM	
	Expected Standard	Greater Depth
2024 School	77%	13%
2023 School	75%	10%
2024 National	61%	7%

#### Scaled Scores/Progress

	Reading		Writing		Maths		Grammar	
	SS	P	SS	P	SS	P	SS	P
2024 School	106				107		109	N/A
2023 School	105	-0.2	N/A	4.0	106	1.8	108	N/A
2024 National	105	0	N/A	0	104	0	105	N/A

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies note of the financial statements.

#### **Financial review**

The majority of the academy's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA, and from other government bodies. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the statement of financial activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £3,278,000 was not covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources totalling £3,178,000.

However, sufficient resources brought forward were available to cover expenditure. The excess of expenditure over income for the year for the restricted general fund was £29,000 before transfers, however there was a large excess of income over expenditure in the unrestricted fund of £64,000 due to careful management to ensure restricted funds are spent.



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £4,378,000. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

Under Accounting Standard FRS102, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided for support staff, to the unrestricted fund. This resulted in the pension fund showing a nil balance which has been carried forward to 2024 due to restrictions on pension assets that can be recognised. It should be noted that this does not present a liquidity problem for the academy and that we are reviewing contributions to the pension scheme in order to see an increase in the pension value in future years. If the pension deficit and related charges were taken out, the general restricted fund would show a surplus of nil also due to restricted funds being spent in the year, however £13,000 in unrestricted funds carried forward means that the trust has sufficient levels of reserves.

#### **Promoting the success of the company**

The academy has been able to access a wide network of support since the coronavirus pandemic and this has affected the trust's operations in a positive way.

#### Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Trustees have carried out a formal assessment of risks and have taken steps to mitigate any identified. In addition, insurance is in place to cover any eventualities.

#### Reserves policy

Outlined below is the trustees' reserves policy:

#### Purpose

The purpose of the reserves policy for Lever Edge Primary Academy is to ensure the stability of the academy's organisational operations, to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital. The Academy has considered the accessibility of reserves in light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Academies are expected to create reserves from their annual GAG funding in relation to revenue and capital. The trustees of Lever Edge Primary Academy require a capital reserve to be created to fund future capital expenditure and to be held in a defined building project cost centre. They also require that a reserve should be created to fund development plans and strategic long term aims and developments in the school.

#### Definitions and goals

Restricted reserves:

Restricted reserves are represented by the main income for the school which is General Annual Grant (GAG), other grant contributions or donations that are received for a specific project or purpose. These funds are restricted for the use according to the funding agreements or donor's instructions.

Academies can carry forward GAG restricted funds which can be used for future years mainly for capital and a small percentage for operational purposes.

The board of trustees will review the reserve levels annually when the budget is set. The review will encompass the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The level of reserves will be determined by trustees annually, with input from the academy's chartered accountant, and can fluctuate depending on operational needs.

The reason that reserves are held is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Where funds allow, they are also held to fund identified capital projects. These reserves will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

Unrestricted funds:

These are made up of the academy's activities for generating funds, investment income and other donations which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance to achieve the objectives of the academy.

The academy is confident that it will meet the required pension contributions from its projected income without significantly impacting on its planned level of charitable activity, it continues to calculate its 'free' or general unrestricted reserves without setting aside designated reserves to cover the pension liability.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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These funds will be reviewed regularly by the trustees and finance committee and are obtained through one off donations and are generally built up over time from fund generating activities and investments.

#### Designated funds:

These are unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the trustees for a particular purpose. These funds are reviewed regularly and approved by the trustees and finance committee. They are obtained by designated funds from unrestricted funds.

#### Use of reserves

##### **1. Identification of appropriate use of reserve funds**

The trustees and senior leadership team will identify the need for access to reserve funds and confirm that the use is consistent with the purpose of the reserve as described in this policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for any shortfall, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required and replenished.

##### **2. Authorisation of use of reserves**

Authorisation to use reserves of any kind will be made by the trustees and finance committee, at the next available meeting then approval should be noted in the minutes.

##### **3. Reporting and monitoring**

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the funds are maintained and are used only as described in this policy. Upon approval for the use of the funds, the academy will maintain a record of the use of the funds. The finance committee should regularly monitor the progress of the reserves.

#### Review of policy

This policy will be reviewed by the finance committee every year if warranted by internal or external events or changes. The negative impact of Covid on the school's reserves this year has been significant due to the loss of income usually generated throughout the year. Changes to policy will be recommended by the finance committee to the board of trustees.

Current reserves at the school are £4,508,000 with £130,000 in free funds available.

#### Investment policy

The policy of Lever Edge Primary Academy is to invest surplus funds only in risk free deposits with well known, "high street" institutions in order to minimise risk. The resources are periodically reviewed (at least annually) to ascertain the best interest rates available. Any decision to invest will have due regard to the liquidity requirements of the academy.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk or failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and reduce the risk to the academy trust policies, aims and objectives.

The system evaluates 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 Lever Edge Primary Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Trustees identified three areas which should be reviewed by the external internal scrutiny providers during 2023/2024, they were the Single Central Record, Governance, Cashflow and VAT.

The review in relation to the Single Central Record scrutinized the training records, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the accuracy of data recorded in compliance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. The overall risk for was graded as low.

The Governance internal scrutiny interviewed members of the Trustee Board to ascertain the overall grading of low.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The Cashflow and VAT scrutiny was graded low overall.

All the internal scrutiny reports for 2023/24 assured the Trustees that the school had robust and accurate systems in place.

The risk register is reviewed termly by trustees and the economic risk remains high due to the uncertainty in relation to staffing, energy and food increases.

The number of children with SEND has risen and this has impacted on staffing costs.

#### **Fundraising**

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the trustees.

#### **Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

As the trust has not consumed more than 40,000 kWh of energy in this reporting period, it qualifies as a low-energy user under these regulations and is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The trustees have successfully applied to the DfE for approval as an Academy Sponsor. The DfE has approved the academy as a sponsor and it is likely that at some point in the future Lever Edge Primary Academy will become a multi-academy trust.

The Academy values the contribution that volunteers make to the school community and we are pleased to report that, in the last 12 months, we have increased parental involvement in the work of the school.

#### **Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others**

The academy or its trustees do not act as custodian trustees.

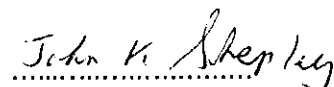
#### **Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that DJH Audit Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr J Shepley**  
**Chair of Trustees**



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### **Scope of responsibility**

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the head teacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Lever Edge Primary Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The trustees have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the 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.

#### Governance reviews

The board of trustees has a good understanding of the challenges, strengths and weaknesses of the school. Trustees have a range of skills and provide effective support and challenge to school leaders. They are highly aspirational for pupils.

Trustees undertake an annual skills audit to enable the Academy to identify where the board needs to develop knowledge, skills and behaviour to deliver its functions effectively.

The trustees are provided with benchmarking data provided by the accountant and the DfE so both are deemed to be from reliable sources.

The Trustee Evaluation exercise was carried out in the Autumn Term 2023.

In compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook a School Resource Management Self-Assessment tool checklist is undertaken annually by the Trustees.

#### **Full Trustee meetings 2023/24**

The board of trustees has met three times during the year. Attendance during the meetings of the full board of trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
Mr J Shepley (Chair of Trustees)	3	3
Mrs A Sultan	3	3
Mr D Crosby	1	3
Mrs K Dugdale	1	3
Mrs K James (Head Teacher)	3	3
Mrs S Qader	0	3
Mrs F Umal	1	3
Mrs K Alam	0	3
Mr A Patel (resigned 12.12.23)	0	3
Mrs M Patel (appointed 09.10.23)	3	3

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### **Finance and Personnel Committee Meetings 2023/24**

The finance and personnel committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees and incorporates the audit and risk committee.

The Finance Committee links the priorities in the School Improvement Plan to the budget and evaluates the effectiveness of decisions taken. The Committee monitors income and expenditure and takes action to revise the spending plan if the budget position is not aligned.

The sharp rise in energy costs is putting a huge strain on the Academy's budget and has the potential to directly impact the education of children and young people.

Technical advice has been sought from experts who have assessed the heating system and determined that it is inefficient and unreliable due to its age. The Trustees have appointed professionals who have supported the Academy with the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) application. Unfortunately, the CIF application and the appeal were rejected.

The Personnel Committee considers staffing and organisational arrangements taking into consideration the needs of the school as well as financial implications.

The main concerns for the Personnel Committee is the increase in salary costs, recruitment shortages and the National Insurance rise.

The Finance and Personnel Committee report directly to the full board of trustees three times per year.

<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
Mr John Shepley	3	3
Mrs Kaneez Alam	3	3
Mrs Kelly James	3	3
Mrs Ayesha Sultan	3	3
Mrs Sazgar Qader	3	3
Mrs Carole Concannon (non-trustee)	3	3

#### **Building and Curriculum Committee Meetings 2023/24**

The building and curriculum committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees.

The main issues causing concern for the Building Committee during this academic year has been the deterioration in the condition of the school's heating system. The academy is receiving advice and support from technical experts in relation to the application of a CIF bid.

The Curriculum Committee monitor the impact of curriculum planning and policies on pupil progress, with reference to individual groups in order to consistently improve outcomes for all pupils. Regularly discusses assessment data and review development targets. The impact of Covid-19 is still being addressed via the school led tutoring programme.

The Building and Curriculum Committee report directly to the full board of trustees three times per year.

<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
Mr John Shepley	3	3
Mrs Kelly James	3	3
Mrs Karrie Dugdale	3	3
Mrs Ayesha Sultan	3	3
Mr David Crosby	2	3
Mrs Fardous Umal	2	3
Mr Azizur Patel (resigned 12.12.23)	0	1
Mrs M Patel (appointed 09.10.23)	2	3
Mrs Carole Concannon (non-trustee)	3	3

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Review of value for money

As accounting officer of Lever Edge Primary Academy the head teacher is responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands the Guide to Academy Value for Money Statements published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayers 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 delivered improved value for money during the year by:

The academy trust is committed to:-

#### 1. Raising pupil attainment

99% of pupils at Lever Edge Primary Academy come from the 30% most deprived areas nationally. The schools deprivation indicator is 0.45, which is very high and puts the school above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile. 89% of pupils come from homes where English is not the first language and 32 different languages are spoken at the academy. In 2016 Lever Edge Primary Academy was ranked 1 out of all Bolton Primary Schools as having the highest % of disadvantaged children on roll. All the above data indicates that many pupils at the academy are potentially educationally disadvantaged. Assessment on entry to the academy confirms that this is indeed the case, as the very large majority of pupils are working below or well below the level expected for their age when they enter the academy.

Despite this, pupils make very good progress and standards at the end of each of the three Key Stages are consistently at or above the national average.

Full details available on the academy website <http://www.leveredgeprimaryacademy.co.uk>

#### 2. Robust governance and oversight of academy trust finances

The academy benefits from the provision of a suitably qualified external assessor who is contracted to undertake internal scrutiny as identified annually by the trustees. The trustees decide on the areas to be reviewed, based on the risk register. Compliance with the Finance Manual and the Academy Trust Handbook is reviewed as part of the internal scrutiny and audit. Reports are provided to the finance committee and full board of trustees. Action is taken where necessary.

The Academy employ an external auditor to ensure financial regularity and compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook. The audit is undertaken on an annual basis and culminates in the submission of the Academy Accounts Return. The Trustees are provided with detailed face-to-face feedback from the accountant in relation to the audit as well as a full copy of this report. The board of trustees receives and approves the annual accounts and the external auditor's management report.

The finance committee receives termly budget monitoring reports and takes decisions in line with the remit for the committee.

The chair of trustees receives a monthly finance report, in compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

The full board of trustees approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the academy remains a 'going concern'. The full board are provided with copies of the termly budget monitoring reports as well as any in-year budget amendments.



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

The academy ensures that all trustees and members complete a Register of Business and Pecuniary Interests which is kept up to date and referred to as part of the day-to-day management and governance of the academy. A declaration of interests is recorded and minuted at all committees, full board and members meetings. Trustees are aware that they must act only in the best interest of the trust and avoid any conflict between this duty and any personal interest they may have.

To ensure transparency, the academy website includes the relevant business and pecuniary interest of the members, trustees and the accounting officer.

#### **3. Ensuring the operation of the academy demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources**

The academy regularly benchmarks financial performance against other academies to demonstrate that the school provides good value for money.

Tender exercises are undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed in the marketplace to ensure that contracts are competitive. The academy undertakes compliance checks and audits to ensure that the premises are well maintained, safe and complies with regulations. There is a trustee who has a responsibility for Health and Safety and their inspection report is provided to the Building Committee members.

All purchases above £7,000 require two quotations, purchases over £10,000, but below the tender limit, require three quotations.

The staffing structure is kept under constant review to ensure that staff are effectively deployed for the delivery of the curriculum. This includes the administration team, as efficient administration is vital to the delivery of a quality learning environment.

#### **4. Maximising income generation**

The trustees have applied to the DfE for approval as an Academy Sponsor. The DfE has approved the school as a sponsor and it is likely that at some point in the future Lever Edge Primary Academy will become a multi-academy trust.

The academy is generating additional income via university student training, crèche and 2 year old nursery as well as the increased hire of the sports hall.

#### **5. Collaboration with other educational providers**

The head teacher collaborates with other educational providers, which benefits the pupils at Lever Edge Primary Academy.

#### **6. Reviewing controls and managing risk**

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the school business manager and head teacher and any necessary remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn. The chair of the Finance Committee is provided with a monthly budget report.

#### **7. Reviewing operation to maximise use of resources**

The school leadership team reviews expenditure within each budget heading annually and makes adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous academic years. The leadership team also identifies funding for priorities identified in the School Development Plan.

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy's 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 Lever Edge Primary Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### **Capacity to handle risk**

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

### **The risk and control framework**

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

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

Following the newly revised FRC Ethical Standards for auditors, the academy trust has appointed a reviewer to carry out the academy trust's internal scrutiny checks from the 1 September 2023. Internal scrutiny reports have been provided to the trustees in relation to the Single Central Record, Governance, Cashflow and VAT. These internal scrutiny checks were carried out during the academic year 2023/24.

There were no significant findings to report. Minor issues were resolved immediately.

### **Review of effectiveness**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an external company to undertake this function. Their remit includes giving advice on financial matters and reporting to trustees on a termly basis. The academy confirms that this function has been fully delivered in line with the ESFA's requirements and no material control issues arose.

The head teacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the leadership and management within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the finance committee;
- the work of the internal scrutiny providers; and
- the work of the external auditors.

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
**Mr J Shepley**  
**Chair of Trustees**

  
.....  
**Mrs K James**  
**Accounting Officer**



# **LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY**

## **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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As accounting officer of Lever Edge Primary Academy, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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

  
.....  
**Mrs K James**  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 12 December 2024

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Lever Edge Primary Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

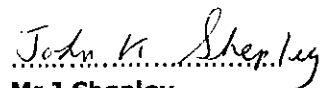
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr J Shepley**  
**Chair of Trustees**

# **LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY**

## **INDEPENDANT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **Opinion**

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

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

### **Basis for opinion**

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

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

### **Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDANT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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

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

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

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDANT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

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

*DJH Audit Limited*

**Candice Beynon FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of DJH Audit Limited**

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Bridge House  
Ashley Road  
Hale  
Altrincham  
WA14 2UT

Date: *12/12/2024*



# **LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 October 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lever Edge Primary Academy during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Respective responsibilities of Lever Edge Primary Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lever Edge Primary Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 December 2010 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

#### Conclusion

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

*DJH Audit Limited*

**DJH Audit Limited**  
**Reporting Accountant**

Bridge House  
Ashley Road  
Hale  
Altrincham  
WA14 2UT

Dated: *12/12/2024*

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds: General £000	Fixed asset £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	21	9	30	29
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,992	-	2,992	2,700
Other trading activities	5	90	66	-	156	152
<b>Total</b>		90	3,079	9	3,178	2,881
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	26	-	-	26	26
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	-	3,108	144	3,252	3,158
<b>Total</b>	6	26	3,108	144	3,278	3,184
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		64	(29)	(135)	(100)	(303)
Transfers between funds	15	(73)	71	2	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	(42)	-	(42)	127
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(9)	-	(133)	(142)	(176)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		139	-	4,511	4,650	4,826
Total funds carried forward		130	-	4,378	4,508	4,650

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	29	29
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,700	-	2,700
Other trading activities	5	87	65	-	152
<b>Total</b>		87	2,765	29	2,881
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	26	-	-	26
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	7	-	3,012	146	3,158
<b>Total</b>	6	26	3,012	146	3,184
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		61	(247)	(117)	(303)
Transfers between funds	15	-	(9)	9	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17	-	127	-	127
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		61	(129)	(108)	(176)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		78	129	4,619	4,826
Total funds carried forward		139	-	4,511	4,650

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		4,378		4,502
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	49		42	
Cash at bank and in hand		199		229	
		<u>248</u>		<u>271</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(118)		(123)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			130		148
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>			4,508		4,650
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	17		-		-
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>4,508</u>		<u>4,650</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	15				
- Fixed asset funds			4,378		4,511
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			4,378		4,511
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15		130		139
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>4,508</u>		<u>4,650</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12.12.24 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Mr J Shepley  
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07458484 (England and Wales)



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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	Notes	2024 £000	£000	2023 £000	£000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash used in operating activities	18		(19)		(124)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Capital grants from DfE Group		9		29	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(20)		(29)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(11)		-
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(30)		(124)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			229		353
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			199		229

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# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

Lever Edge Primary Academy 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.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Lever Edge Primary Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Going concern

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

#### 1.3 Income

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

##### Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

##### Sponsorship income

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

#### 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 in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 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 life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold land and buildings	50 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7 years

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

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

##### 1.6 Liabilities

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

##### 1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

##### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

###### Financial assets

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

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

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Financial liabilities

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

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

#### 1.9 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### 1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

#### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

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

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 17, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

##### Critical areas of judgement

The trustees have considered the apportionment of depreciation between direct and support costs. The majority of fixed assets are almost entirely used for the provision of education and only a small part for support services. Therefore a 90% direct cost and 10% support cost apportionment is considered appropriate.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Capital grants	-	9	9	29
Other non-government grants	-	21	21	-
	—	—	—	—
	-	30	30	29
	==	==	==	==

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## 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)	-	2,077	2,077	1,997
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	63	63	62
- Pupil premium	-	181	181	168
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	57
- MSAG funding	-	66	66	28
- Others	-	100	100	68
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,487</u>	<u>2,487</u>	<u>2,380</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	505	505	320
	<u>-</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>320</u>
<b>Total funding</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,992</u>	<u>2,992</u>	<u>2,700</u>

Local authority income was £505,000 (2023: £320,000), this related to high needs funding, holiday activities and food (HAF) programme funding, bulge year funding, pupil premium and early years funding.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to grants in the year.

#### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Income from facilities and services	-	10	10	13
Catering income	-	51	51	42
Parental contributions	87	-	87	68
Maternity reclaim	-	5	5	10
Other income	3	-	3	19
	<u>90</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>152</u>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
		Premises £000	Other £000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	26	26	26
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,111	130	179	2,420	2,206
- Allocated support costs	560	194	78	832	952
	<u>2,671</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>3,278</u>	<u>3,184</u>

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Operating lease rentals	16	13
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	144	146
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7	6
- Other services	1	1
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(27)	3
	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>

### 7 Charitable activities

All from restricted funds:

#### Direct costs

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Educational operations	2,420	2,206

#### Support costs

Educational operations	832	952
	<u>3,252</u>	<u>3,158</u>

#### Analysis of costs

##### Direct costs

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Teaching and educational support staff costs	2,112	1,899
Staff development	4	11
Depreciation	130	131
Technology costs	34	23
Educational supplies and services	140	142
	<u>2,420</u>	<u>2,206</u>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

7 Charitable activities	(Continued)	
	2024	2023
Support costs	£000	£000
Support staff costs	560	594
Depreciation	14	15
Maintenance of premises and equipment	84	65
Cleaning	7	10
Energy costs	57	107
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	22	16
Insurance	10	15
Catering	84	77
Interest on defined benefit pension scheme	(27)	3
Legal costs	1	-
Other support costs	13	44
Governance costs	7	6
	<u>832</u>	<u>952</u>

### 8 Staff

#### Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,996	1,833
Social security costs	188	171
Pension costs	429	454
	<u>2,613</u>	<u>2,458</u>
Staff costs - employees	2,613	2,458
Agency staff costs	58	25
Staff restructuring costs	-	10
	<u>2,671</u>	<u>2,493</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	5	11
	<u>2,676</u>	<u>2,504</u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>2,676</u>	<u>2,504</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	10

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

### 8 Staff (Continued)

#### Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	16	16
Administration and support	55	59
Management	8	7
	<u>79</u>	<u>82</u>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	14	15
Administration and support	42	41
Management	8	7
	<u>64</u>	<u>63</u>

#### Higher paid staff

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

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

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £606,000 (2023: £499,000).



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The head teacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of head teacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

K James (Head Teacher)

Remuneration: £85,001 - £90,000 (2023: £75,001 - £80,000)

Pension contributions: £15,001 - £20,000 (2023: £15,001 - £20,000)

During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2023: £nil) were reimbursed.

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

#### 10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

#### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2023	5,711	212	546	6,469
Additions	-	-	20	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	5,711	212	566	6,489
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	1,337	205	425	1,967
Charge for the year	114	3	27	144
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2024	1,451	208	452	2,111
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	4,260	4	114	4,378
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	4,374	7	121	4,502
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

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<b>11 Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
<b>The net book value of land and buildings comprises:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Long leaseholds (over 50 years)	4,260	4,374
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<p>The land and buildings are held under a 125 year lease from Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council.</p>		
<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Trade debtors	2	1
Prepayments and accrued income	47	41
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	49	42
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Other creditors	-	2
Accruals and deferred income	118	121
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	118	123
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>14 Deferred income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	42	38
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	38	35
Released from previous years	(38)	(35)
Resources deferred in the year	42	38
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	42	38
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

At 31 August 2024 the academy was holding funds received for Universal Infant Free School Meals of £37,000 (2023: £38,000). This money had been received in advance of the year ended 31 August 2025.

Additionally, the academy was holding funds received in relation to Rates Relief amounting to £5,255 (2022: £Nil). This money had been received in advance of the year ended 31 August 2025.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

### 15 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)	-	2,077	(2,148)	71	-
UIFSM	-	63	(63)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	181	(181)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	166	(166)	-	-
Other government grants	-	505	(505)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	87	(87)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	42	(42)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,079</u>	<u>(3,108)</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	3,653	-	(95)	-	3,558
DfE group capital grants	41	9	(8)	-	42
Capital expenditure from GAG	706	-	(22)	2	686
Donated assets	111	-	(19)	-	92
	<u>4,511</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>(144)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4,378</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>4,511</u>	<u>3,088</u>	<u>(3,252)</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>4,378</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	139	90	(26)	(73)	130
	<u>139</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>(26)</u>	<u>(73)</u>	<u>130</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>3,178</u>	<u>(3,278)</u>	<u>(42)</u>	<u>4,508</u>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

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### 15 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objects of the academy and are restricted to both the day to day running of the academy and capital expenditure.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees. A transfer of £73,000 has been made from unrestricted funds to restricted GAG funds to cover the overspend on the restricted fund.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

The pension value as at 31 August 2024 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset as at 31 August 2024. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been capped at an asset ceiling value of nil on the basis that the asset is not deemed to be recoverable.

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 15 Funds

(Continued)

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

	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)	180	1,997	(2,168)	(9)	-
UIFSM	-	62	(62)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	168	(168)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	96	(96)	-	-
Other government grants	-	320	(320)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	57	(57)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	65	(65)	-	-
Pension reserve	(51)	-	(76)	127	-
	<u>129</u>	<u>2,765</u>	<u>(3,012)</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	3,748	-	(95)	-	3,653
DfE group capital grants	14	29	(2)	-	41
Capital expenditure from GAG	727	-	(30)	9	706
Private sector capital sponsorship	130	-	(19)	-	111
	<u>4,619</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>(146)</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4,511</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>4,748</u>	<u>2,794</u>	<u>(3,158)</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>4,511</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	78	87	(26)	-	139
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>4,826</u>	<u>2,881</u>	<u>(3,184)</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>4,650</u>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted funds: General £000	Fixed asset £000	Total Funds £000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,378	4,378
Current assets	130	118	-	248
Current liabilities	-	(118)	-	(118)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,378</b>	<b>4,508</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	-	-	4,502	4,502
Current assets	139	123	9	271
Current liabilities	-	(123)	-	(123)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>4,650</b>

#### 17 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 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

##### Teachers' Pension Scheme

###### Introduction

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

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



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

### 17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £239,000 (2023: £196,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.4% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

<b>Total contributions made</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Employer's contributions	205	186
Employees' contributions	63	60
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	268	246
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.75
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	17.5	17.6
- Females	23.3	23.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	19.9	20.0
- Females	24.7	24.8

#### Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are as set out below:

Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2024	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	91
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	145
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	88
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	5

#### The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2024	2023
	Fair value £000	Fair value £000
Equities	3,008	2,623
Bonds	653	524
Property	349	300
Other assets	349	300
Total market value of assets	4,359	3,747

The actual return on scheme assets was £362,000 (2023: £130,000).



# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(100)	(303)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(9)	(29)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	17	(15)	73
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	17	(27)	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		144	146
(Increase) in debtors		(7)	(4)
(Decrease) in creditors		(5)	(10)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>		<u>(19)</u>	<u>(124)</u>

#### 19 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £000	Cash flows £000	31 August 2024 £000
Cash	<u>229</u>	<u>(30)</u>	<u>199</u>

#### 20 Long-term commitments

##### Operating leases

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

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Amounts due within one year	4	13
Amounts due in two and five years	12	1
	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>

# LEVER EDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

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### 21 Related party transactions

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

During the period, swimming lessons for pupils were procured from Bolton Community Leisure Ltd totalling £nil (2023: £8,554). As at the balance sheet date, no amounts were owed by the academy trust. Mr J Shepley (trustee) is a voluntary director and company secretary of Bolton Community Leisure Ltd. The academy trust made the purchase at arm's length. The academy trust has provided a statement of assurance to the ESFA.

M Tipping, wife of T Tipping, member, is employed by the academy trust as deputy head teacher. T Tipping was not involved in this appointment. M Tipping is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a member.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

Further related party transactions in relation to certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

### 22 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.