

Company registration number 09024278 (England and Wales)

**CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS  
PRIMARY ACADEMY**

**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

G J Provis  
J Garnett  
M A F Gartside

### Trustees

C L Foster  
M A F Gartside (Chair)  
S Isherwood (Principal) (Resigned 31 August 2024)  
C Nield  
G J Provis  
M Rice (Resigned 2 July 2024)  
J Rossen  
S Angelara (Resigned 2 July 2024)  
K Vincent  
J Garnett  
Z Griffiths  
M Wall  
A Rourke (Principal) (Appointed 1 September 2024)

### Senior management team

- Principal S Isherwood (resigned 31 August 2024)  
- Principal A Rourke (appointed 1 September 2024)  
- School Business Manager M Hatton

### Company registration number

09024278 (England and Wales)

### Principal address

Waggs Road  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4BT

### Registered office

Waggs Road  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4BT

### Independent auditor

JS. Audit Limited  
James House  
Stonecross Business Park  
Yew Tree Way  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA3 3JD

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc  
Ariel House  
2138 Coventry Road  
Sheldon  
Birmingham  
B26 3JW

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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 academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area in Congleton. It has a pupil capacity of 210 mainstream places and 52 part time nursery places and a roll of 193 in the school census of October 2023. There were also a further 25 children with our nursery places.

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

##### Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields Primary Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1. The charitable company is known as Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited and trades as Marlfields Primary Academy.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The school has Professional Indemnity insurance through the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) through the DFE. Directors and Officers Liability is to the value of £10,000,000 for any one claim and any one membership year. Employer's liability is unlimited. Each trustee shall benefit from this insurance which covers their liability which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust (unless done knowingly or with criminal intent).

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

The Company shall always have a minimum of 3 Directors (Trustees). There must always also be a minimum of 2 parent directors (trustees) who are elected by parents of registered pupils at the school. A parent trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the school at the time he/she is elected. Parent trustees are appointed through a system of nomination with a ballot if more than one nomination is received. Other trustees are appointed from the wider community on the basis of merit. All trustees are appointed for a term of 4 years. Elected trustees may then stand for re-election.

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

The Chair and Principal meet new trustees to discuss the role and to ensure that they understand the trustees' vision for the school, its strengths and the current priorities for school development. All new trustees are given a detailed information file and referred to the Department for Education's Trustees' Handbook. Trustees are also assigned trustees link responsibilities and attend induction training (run by Cheshire East) and other training as appropriate (Trustees Learning Partnership courses, online modules and in-school training) as well as accessing information via the NGA and through collaboration with other schools.

All trustees' training is on-going and kept under regular review. For each committee, key competencies audits are completed annually to identify training needs. The clerk to the trustees, who has responsibility for training, also identifies an annual programme of further training for all trustees including, (through the Trustees Learning Partnership), online modules, opportunities for in-school training as well as networking and training opportunities with other schools. Trustees training is reported termly and the impact of the training is evaluated.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### Organisational structure

The organisation of the school is structured with a view to ensuring responsibility and decisions are devolved appropriately. The levels of responsibility are as follows:

Level 1 - Members and trustees – the members and trustees are responsible for:

- Overseeing the achievement of the objectives of the company and ensuring that the academy complies with its responsibilities under its Articles of Association and its Funding Agreement;
- Ensuring compliance with charity and company law and risk management;
- Appointing the Academy's auditors and signing off the company's financial accounts and annual report;
- Ensuring that the school meets its requirements to support other schools.

Level 2 – The Principal, who is also the Accounting officer is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all ESFA reporting requirements are submitted in the prescribed format and at the time required
- Ensuring that administrative and financial staff clearly understand their role and the limits of their responsibilities
- Approving new staff appointments within the authorised establishment, except for senior staff posts which are subject to governor approval
- Authorising contracts up to £7,000
- Signing cheques in conjunction with other authorised signatories.

The Principal is responsible for the running of the school and management of staff.

Level 3 – Vice Principal - is responsible for:

- The management of Learning and Teaching within school
- Stands in fully for the Principal in her absence.
- Can authorise contracts to £3,000 only.

Level 4 – Subject Leaders – are responsible for:

- The leadership and management of discrete subject areas.

Level 5 – School Business Manager:

- Maintaining the school's accounting records.
- Can authorise payments up to £500.

There is a meeting of the Full Board of Governors each term to:

- Receive reports from sub committees
- Consider strategic objectives and discuss responses to government initiatives
- It sets limits for financial delegation at the start of each year.

There are two sub committees (along with the Pay committee):

- The Resources Committee which meets each term to consider the academy's budget and financial performance, any premises requirements, and to consider the maintenance and health and safety needs of the academy.
- The Curriculum Committee meets each term to consider general staffing matters and performance related pay, together with considering progress against the school improvement plan and priorities for next year's school improvement plan.

The school operates with the following scheme of financial delegation:

Authority to purchase limit	Authority to raise orders/approve	Authorisation for bad debt write off	Authorisation for write off/ disposal of assets
Board	No limit	1% of grant income	1% of grant income
Resources Committee	£10,000	1% of grant income	1% of grant income
Principal	£7,000	£500	£2,000
Vice Principal	£3,000	No authority	No authority
School business manager	£500	No authority	No authority

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024*

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

The whole school pay policy is reviewed annually by a Pay Committee and then recommended for approval to the board. The performance management of all senior staff is based on agreed objectives and is conducted by trustees with the aid of consultants. Remuneration is made in line with the pay policies. The Pay committee:

- Is drawn each year from a panel of named trustees appointed by the governing body
- Comprises at least three members of the governing body, none of whom are paid to work at the school.

The Pay Committee makes decisions relating to the pay and remuneration of teaching staff. In determining the pay and pay progression of any member of staff, the committee takes account of the school's pay policy and performance management policy together with any recommendations made by the Principal, or in the case of the Principal by the Principal's performance management panel. The committee also has responsibility for making recommendations to the board on the appropriate salary range for members of the leadership group, the appropriate levels of teaching and learning responsibility allowances, special educational needs allowances and other allowances specified within the pay policy. Decisions regarding the pay of support staff are approved by the Resources Committee. This is then taken to Full Board meeting for full approval.

Appropriate external advice is sought in relation to decisions made, for example the school's Human Resource advisers and governor support services.

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

- The Friends of Marlfields raise money for the school in its own right and all donations received are declared through the statutory accounts in donations received.
- There are staff members who are trustees of the academy and all related party relationships are again declared in the statutory accounts. For connected organisations including related party relationships, trustees are asked to declare any pecuniary interest or conflict of interest at each meeting and a register of business interests is maintained.
- The school is not part of any formal federation but collaborates with a number of schools to drive improvement and share good practice.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objects and aims

The school's object is to maintain a passion for our pupils to be confident, happy learners that go onto live successful, healthy lifestyles in their community both locally and globally.

The board's vision for the school is to ensure that a vibrant, rich curriculum tailored to supporting each child to reach his / her full potential and that children feel safe, cared for and enjoy their learning. All achievements are valued and celebrated as children experience a rich, creative and challenging curriculum that enables them to fulfil their potential. They leave school not only literate and numerate but also with strong interpersonal skills. Clear communication exists between home and school encouraging parents and carers to be partners in their child's education. Children become independent lifelong learners, self-motivated and confident to be responsible citizens. All of this is achieved in a safe, attractive and stimulating environment.

In delivering the vision trustees:

- Ensure the school is a place with high standards of behaviour where children are safe, happy and learning. In delivering the vision we do have high standards of behaviour.
- Contribute to the children's spiritual, emotional, social, moral and physical development promoting a healthy, happy and safe lifestyle and offering a broad and exciting range of opportunities.
- Provide excellent teaching and learning and have high expectations of children's academic achievement.
- Develop children's self-confidence, resilience, imagination and creativity through a challenging curriculum, which meets the needs of every pupil.
- Develop positive approaches and attitudes to the needs of others and enable children to become responsible and active members of our diverse society.
- Are open and welcoming to children and parents and work in partnership with them and the wider community.
- Ensure that creative approaches to learning equip the children to be lifelong learners.
- Support and value all staff and governors and ensure their strengths are shared and to encourage their own development.
- Continue to work in partnerships with other schools.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

Over the period ended 31 August 2024, the school development plan focused on:

- Ensuring all pupils achieved an effective blended approach to their learning to maximise the potential of technology for pupils to achieve their full potential and ensure all children had opportunities for 'catch-up' in both Maths and English;
- Ensuring the school has an exciting, rich, challenging curriculum that meets the school's overarching aims and values for our children across all subject areas;
- Working to raise the standard of teaching and learning throughout school following the Covid 19 pandemic;
- Supporting and guiding every child in behaving appropriately at all times, showing respect towards all staff and pupils and caring for our school.

#### Public benefit

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

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### Strategic report

#### Achievements and performance

##### Key performance indicators

2024 test results.

Key Stage Test	School Results for the academic year 2023-2024					
	<b>Key:</b> Marlfields Primary Academy data National data					
EYFS Good Level of Development	68 % (65.2%)					
Year 1 Phonics Screen	70 % (75.7%)					
Year 2 Phonics screen retake	1 out of 10 retakes passed = 10%					
Year 4 Multiplication check	39 % achieved 25/25. Nationally 30% achieved 25/25.  61 % achieved 16 or more out of 25. Nationally 80% achieved 16 or more out of 25.  50 % achieved 20 or more out of 25.					
Year 6 KS 2 SATs	Reading 81% (74%) EXS 19% GDS	GPS 71% (72%) EXS 28% GDS	Writing 38% (72%) EXS 0% GDS	Maths 57% (73%) EXS 14% GDS	Combined 38% (61%)	Science 81% (81%)

Results indicate that the school is above that achieved nationally for EYFS Good Levels of Development and for those Year 4 pupils completing the Multiplication Checks. At Key Stage 2 the school achieved above expected levels meeting age related expectations in reading and percentages in line with national for GPS and Science.

During this year the school had an Ofsted inspection and was judged to require improvement. Action has been taken to address this including a process to identify a multi academy trust to join with.

	Year ended 31 August 2024	Year ended 31 August 2023
Number of students (October 2023 census)	193	177
Full time equivalent teachers	9	9
Total funding for educational operations income per pupil	£7,901	£8,383
Staff costs as a % of total expenditure (excluding depreciation)	77.8%	76.6%
Expenditure per pupil (excluding depreciation)	£7,330	£7,652
Pupil to teacher ratio (based on FTE)	21.44	19.66

The overall income of the academy has increased by 0.6% from £1,587,410 (2022/23) to £1,597,000 (2023/24). Total Staffing costs (Including Agency costs) have increased in the year by £63,720 and equate to 77.8% of total expenditure excluding depreciation, and they remain within the recommended benchmarking range.



# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### Going concern

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

### **Financial review**

The Academy's financial policy is to maintain systems of financial control which:

- conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.
- meet the requirements of the school's funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- comply with the principles of financial control outlined in the academy's guidance published by the ESFA.

During the year, governors received 3 reports from the school's Responsible Officer (who is independent from the school and its external auditors) reviewing the accuracy and robustness of the school's accounting systems. Governors have agreed termly reviews for the Financial Year 2023-24 from Haines Watts Internal Audit Service.

The principal sources of funding in the year were restricted funds from government grants (including capital grants) of £1,531,263 (2023: £1,503,157). The costs of running the school (primarily staff costs, premises and equipment including depreciation) totalled £1,555,744 (2023: £1,489,475). In addition tangible fixed assets totalling £132,451 were purchased in the year.

Overall the school achieved a surplus in the year of £41,256 (2023: £97,935) after depreciation. The school still has planned improvements to the boilers (of which there are 3) as well as ensuring the school's IT equipment is appropriate for the computing curriculum. The school is also intending to establish a more stakeholder friendly reception area and create a home economics classroom.

The Trustees review the level of reserves at least annually, ensuring that the school's expenditure commitments are in line with its income. See below regarding reserves policy.

The Trustees had also set the following Key Performance Indicators for 2023/2024 with regard to financial responsibility:

- To ensure that the new National Formula is planned for and school continues to remain viable.
- To ensure reserves are sufficient to meet needs should the business continuity plan need to be actioned.
- To ensure that school provides best value for financial spending in comparison with school benchmarking DfE guidance.
- To ensure we continue to manage and monitor the performance of the employee pension scheme

### Reserves policy

Trustees consider the level of any reserves in the context of spending requirements and the need to maintain adequate working capital. Uncommitted reserves are maintained:

- As a contingency fund to deal with minor adjustments to expenditure
- As a reserve fund to deal with one or more major expenditures that could not have been accurately forecast
- As a planned build-up of funds to pay for some major work or project such as the replacement of school heating systems
- For expenditure held over to the following year to cope with adjustments to the level of funding to the school and balance out variations in funding levels.

The school's uncommitted reserves are maintained at £457k which is approximately four months running costs.

### Investment policy

The trustees consider the school's investments on an annual basis ensuring the school maximises the return on its capital whilst minimising any risk and maintaining appropriate reserves. Any investments must be approved by governors and will further the school's charitable aims. Governors' policy is to manage, control and track their financial exposure, ensure value for money, taking advice as appropriate from a professional adviser and ensuring that security takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Academy has a formal risk management process to assess business risks and to implement risk management strategies. This process involves identifying the types of risk the Academy faces, scoring and prioritising the risks in terms of their potential operational and financial impact, assessing the likelihood of occurrence and identifying means of mitigating the risks. A Risk Register is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis. Areas of risk assessed include health and safety, trips, child protection, control of finance and educational outcomes.

The school's Financial Procedures Manual sets out the basis on which risks are assessed. Annually, governors review the risks identified, the assessment and evidence of existing internal controls and ensure that the School Business Manager and Principal have put appropriate steps in place to manage any risks identified as moderate or high. The principal risks identified are:

- Failure of the school to monitor the performance of the employee pension schemes with the risks that the pension schemes are in significant deficit; that the employer pension contribution increases significantly; that the school is not making the correct level of contribution to the pension schemes on behalf of the employees. On review it has been assessed that these are historically low risk pension schemes which are subject to annual external audit and which governors have agreed to have re-valued every 3 years.
- Failure to ensure that an adequate disaster recovery plan is in place in relation to the school's financial systems with the risks that financial information cannot be recovered in the event of a disaster e.g. fire, vandalism or theft with significant operational and financial consequences
- The safety and maintenance of the building, ensuring that it complies with relevant regulations. An intrusive RAAC survey has been undertaken by a Chartered Surveyor and no RAAC was identified.

On review it has been assessed that the school's position is offered protection by its Business Continuity Plan, security systems operated by the school, Risk Assessment Policy and Procedures operated by the school, the availability of other school sites as back up and off-site back-up storage and enhanced systems to recover information and data. These areas are under review by governors and all other risk have been identified and evaluated as low.

#### **Fundraising**

When fundraising, the Trustees refer to the Charity Commission publication 'Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties (CC20)'. This ensures fundraising activities conform to recognised standards all of which are monitored and reported on regularly to the board. Any complaints are dealt with under the company complaints procedure. The trustees ensure that opportunities for fundraising take into account the protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate by monitoring the number of events held for fundraising during the academic year.

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

Over the following year the school will focus on further raising the achievement of pupils, specifically by:

- Securing the membership of Marlfields to the Children First Learning Partnership Multi Academy Trust and subsequent alignment of financial and human resources systems and procedures.
- Improving the quality of teaching across Key Stage 1 and 2
- Improve pupil outcomes in particular in maths and writing at KS 2
- Developing the capacity of leadership across the school including the appointment of a new Headteacher
- The development of an effective whole school writing curriculum
- The development of a cohesive non core curriculum

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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Trustees will also ensure that:

- The school develops and implements its own system for assessment without levels that continues to identify children and trends that need further support / targeting.
- The school's leadership team and governors continue to evaluate its practices and collaborate with other schools to ensure leadership is as effective as possible. This will include the development of the roles of middle and senior leaders in management that will ensure sustainability of the staffing structure of key roles.
- Facilities continue to be maintained in sound order on a monitored rolling programme of maintenance and improvement.

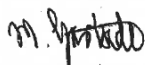
### **Auditor**

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 JS. 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 03 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M A F Gartside  
**Chair**

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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 Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/A Marfields 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 with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/A Marfields 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.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C L Foster	3	3
M A F Gartside (Chair)	3	3
S Isherwood (Principal) (Resigned 31 August 2024)	3	3
C Nield	2	3
G J Provis	3	3
M Rice (Resigned 2 July 2024)	3	3
J Rossen	2	3
S Angelara (Resigned 2 July 2024)	3	3
K Vincent	2	3
J Garnett	3	3
Z Griffiths	3	3
M Wall	1	3
A Rourke (Principal) (Appointed 1 September 2024)	0	0

### Conflicts of interest

The Academy Trust manages conflicts of interest by maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, and this is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the academy trust.

### Governance reviews

The Academy Trust carries out a self-assessment annually, and commissions independent external reviews of governance routinely, as part of the internal scrutiny process.

- An internal scrutiny review on governance and compliance was carried out in the year as part of the regular internal scrutiny reviews which take place termly.
- No items were identified as being high priority. The main findings were with regards to trustees and members being disclosed correctly at Companies House and 'Get Information About Schools'.
- The Academy Trust carries out a self assessment annually.

### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the head teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The accounting officer reports to the board of governors 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:

- Reviewing the school's financial efficiency using the Department for Education metric which establishes that the school is in second decile compared with similar schools.
- Engaging with the SRMA review in October 2019

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/A Marlfields Primary Academy for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

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

The academy trust's system of internal 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 resources committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- to appoint a third party internal auditor. The governors have appointed Haines Watts to carry out an independent Review of Financial Processes and controls.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Systems.
- Income/VAT
- Expenditure/VAT
- Payroll
- Bank
- Fixed Assets
- Governance and compliance
- Risk management
- Reviewing that financial year-end statements and annual reports have been independently prepared and audited by JS. Audit Limited and submitted to ESFA timeously; ensuring that the Academy has adequate and appropriate financial policies.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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On a termly basis, the reviewer reports to the board of trustees through the resources committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees. Any highlighting of control issues arising as a result of the reviewer's work is actioned and reported upon within the next report. One such action was to encourage parents to pay online and not use cash transactions. The school offers this promoting it at every opportunity and is becoming a cashless school.

### **Review of effectiveness**

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

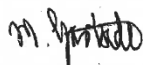
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

### **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 03 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M A F Gartside  
**Chair**



A Rourke  
**Principal**

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024***

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



A Rourke  
**Accounting Officer**

03 December 2024

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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 Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields 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 03 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M A F Gartside  
**Chair**



# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields 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 financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the 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.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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.

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

Based on our understanding of the academy and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, employment, pension, health and safety and safeguarding legislation, the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, The Academy Trust Handbook 2023 and the academy's funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice, the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements and risk of fraudulent revenue recognition.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management about actual and potential litigation and claims, their policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing regulatory correspondence with the Secretary of State for Education;
- obtaining an understanding of provisions; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls: testing the appropriateness of journal entries; assessing whether the accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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.

*JS. Audit Limited*

**Peter Atkinson F.C.A. (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of JS. Audit Limited

10 December 2024  
.....

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

James House  
Stonecross Business Park  
Yew Tree Way  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA3 3JD

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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 28 August 2018 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 Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields 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 Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields Primary Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields 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 Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields Primary Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields Primary Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited T/a Marlfields Primary Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 June 2014 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.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity across the academy trust's activities;
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024*

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### **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.

*JS. Audit Limited*

### **Reporting Accountant**

JS. Audit Limited

Dated: ..10 December 2024

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,901	-	6,341	9,242	30,511
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,524,922	-	1,524,922	1,483,715
Other trading activities	5	62,764	-	-	62,764	73,132
Investments	6	72	-	-	72	52
<b>Total</b>		<u>65,737</u>	<u>1,524,922</u>	<u>6,341</u>	<u>1,597,000</u>	<u>1,587,410</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	1,414,679	141,065	1,555,744	1,489,475
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>-</u>	<u>1,414,679</u>	<u>141,065</u>	<u>1,555,744</u>	<u>1,489,475</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		65,737	110,243	(134,724)	41,256	97,935
Transfers between funds	17	(11,169)	(114,791)	125,960	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	27,000	-	27,000	73,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		54,568	22,452	(8,764)	68,256	170,935
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		<u>402,403</u>	<u>85,690</u>	<u>1,818,358</u>	<u>2,306,451</u>	<u>2,135,516</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>456,971</u>	<u>108,142</u>	<u>1,809,594</u>	<u>2,374,707</u>	<u>2,306,451</u>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS 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
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	11,069	-	19,442	30,511
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,483,715	-	1,483,715
Other trading activities	5	73,132	-	-	73,132
Investments	6	52	-	-	52
<b>Total</b>		<u>84,253</u>	<u>1,483,715</u>	<u>19,442</u>	<u>1,587,410</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	1,354,337	135,138	1,489,475
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>-</u>	<u>1,354,337</u>	<u>135,138</u>	<u>1,489,475</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		84,253	129,378	(115,696)	97,935
Transfers between funds	17	-	12,312	(12,312)	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	73,000	-	73,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>84,253</u>	<u>214,690</u>	<u>(128,008)</u>	<u>170,935</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>318,150</u>	<u>(129,000)</u>	<u>1,946,366</u>	<u>2,135,516</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>402,403</u>	<u>85,690</u>	<u>1,818,358</u>	<u>2,306,451</u>


# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		1,809,594		1,818,358
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	3,478		-	
Debtors	14	44,980		38,543	
Cash at bank and in hand		691,236		656,843	
			<u>739,694</u>		<u>695,386</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(121,581)		(128,293)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>618,113</u>		<u>567,093</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>2,427,707</u>		<u>2,385,451</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(53,000)		(79,000)	
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><u>2,374,707</u></u>		<u><u>2,306,451</u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17				
- Fixed asset funds			1,809,594		1,818,358
- Restricted income funds			161,142		164,690
- Pension reserve			(53,000)		(79,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>1,917,736</u>		<u>1,904,048</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17		<u>456,971</u>		<u>402,403</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>2,374,707</u></u>		<u><u>2,306,451</u></u>

The accounts on pages 20 to 40 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 03 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



M A F Gartside  
Chair

Company registration number 09024278 (England and Wales)



# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		160,281		236,592
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		72		52	
Capital grants from DfE Group		6,341		19,442	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(132,451)		(7,130)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		150		-	
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>			<b>(125,888)</b>		<b>12,364</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			<b>34,393</b>		<b>248,956</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			656,843		407,887
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			<b>691,236</b>		<b>656,843</b>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e., 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.

###### 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.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

#### Donated fixed assets

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

### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% to 10% per annum straight line basis
Computer equipment	25% per annum straight line basis
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% per annum straight line basis

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

#### 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.

##### 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 Stock

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

#### 1.10 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.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.11 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 so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, 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.

#### 1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

### 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.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (Continued)

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

Depreciation charge is calculated based on estimates and assumptions on asset useful economic lives and expected residual value.

#### Critical areas of judgement

All areas requiring judgement are considered on a case by case basis by the governors. None are considered critical, however they are monitored on an at least annual basis to ensure that this is still the case.

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	6,341	6,341	19,442
Other donations	2,901	-	2,901	11,069
	2,901	6,341	9,242	30,511

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,049,353	1,049,353	947,667
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	22,834	22,834	23,811
- Pupil premium	-	103,215	103,215	88,600
- Others	-	88,405	88,405	86,341
	-	1,263,807	1,263,807	1,146,419
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	261,115	261,115	337,296
<b>Total funding</b>	-	1,524,922	1,524,922	1,483,715

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Catering income	2,158	-	2,158	-
Parental and other contributions	-	-	-	63
Nursery income	11,381	-	11,381	8,016
Solar energy contributions	6,008	-	6,008	2,784
Other income	43,217	-	43,217	62,269
	<u>62,764</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,764</u>	<u>73,132</u>

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Short term deposits	72	-	72	52
	<u>72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>52</u>

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	926,850	-	115,880	1,042,730	969,295
- Allocated support costs	167,882	255,137	89,995	513,014	520,180
	<u>1,094,732</u>	<u>255,137</u>	<u>205,875</u>	<u>1,555,744</u>	<u>1,489,475</u>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	141,215	135,138
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(150)	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	6,825	6,500
- Other services	1,900	1,800
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	4,000	6,000
	<u>153,790</u>	<u>159,438</u>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

<b>8 Charitable activities</b>		
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
All from restricted funds:		
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Educational operations	1,042,730	969,295
<b>Support costs</b>		
Educational operations	513,014	520,180
	<u>1,555,744</u>	<u>1,489,475</u>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	167,882	184,221
Depreciation	141,215	135,138
Profit on disposal on fixed assets	(150)	-
Premises costs	114,072	102,886
Legal costs	29,512	22,330
Other support costs	49,886	64,970
Governance costs	10,597	10,635
	<u>513,014</u>	<u>520,180</u>
<b>9 Staff</b>		
<b>Staff costs and employee benefits</b>		
Staff costs during the year were:		
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	783,337	765,215
Social security costs	73,076	67,561
Pension costs	184,123	176,174
	<u>1,040,536</u>	<u>1,008,950</u>
Staff costs - employees	1,040,536	1,008,950
Agency staff costs	54,196	22,919
	<u>1,094,732</u>	<u>1,031,869</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	5,650	4,793
	<u>1,100,382</u>	<u>1,036,662</u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>1,100,382</u>	<u>1,036,662</u>



# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 9 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	9	9
Administration and support	3	4
Teaching and midday assistants	18	17
Maintenance	3	3
	<u>33</u>	<u>33</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
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £187,226 (2023: £174,046).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The head teacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of head teacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

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

S Isherwood (head teacher):

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

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

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £4,577 (2023: £4,053). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance costs.

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2023	2,250,102	133,132	501,287	2,884,521
Additions	6,851	19,232	106,368	132,451
Disposals	-	(833)	-	(833)
At 31 August 2024	2,256,953	151,531	607,655	3,016,139
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	495,488	125,509	445,166	1,066,163
On disposals	-	(833)	-	(833)
Charge for the year	79,649	12,290	49,276	141,215
At 31 August 2024	575,137	136,966	494,442	1,206,545
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	1,681,816	14,565	113,213	1,809,594
At 31 August 2023	1,754,614	7,623	56,121	1,818,358

#### 13 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Catering stock	3,478	-

#### 14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,217	1,116
Other debtors	30,858	17,350
Prepayments and accrued income	7,905	20,077
	44,980	38,543

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,167	22,472
Other creditors	40,843	35,459
Accruals and deferred income	69,571	70,362
	<u>121,581</u>	<u>128,293</u>

### 16 Deferred income

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>50,655</u>	<u>41,489</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	41,489	31,499
Released from previous years	(41,489)	(31,499)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>50,655</u>	<u>41,489</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>50,655</u>	<u>41,489</u>

Amounts included within deferred income for the year ended 31 August 2024 include nursery fees £610 (2023: £1,104), Universal Infant Free School Meals £13,320 (2023: £14,582), Pupil Premium funding £19,682 (2023: £25,803) and Early Years Funding £17,043 (2023: £Nil), all relating to the academic year 2024/25.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	127,400	1,049,353	(1,061,962)	(114,791)	-
UIFSM	23,811	22,834	(46,645)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	103,215	(103,215)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	1,819	88,405	(43,579)	-	46,645
Other government grants	11,660	261,115	(158,278)	-	114,497
Pension reserve	(79,000)	-	(1,000)	27,000	(53,000)
	<u>85,690</u>	<u>1,524,922</u>	<u>(1,414,679)</u>	<u>(87,791)</u>	<u>108,142</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	1,342,670	-	-	-	1,342,670
DfE group capital grants	291,129	6,341	(141,065)	125,960	282,365
Capital expenditure from GAG	99,361	-	-	-	99,361
Funded from unrestricted funds	11,613	-	-	-	11,613
National Lottery fund	73,585	-	-	-	73,585
	<u>1,818,358</u>	<u>6,341</u>	<u>(141,065)</u>	<u>125,960</u>	<u>1,809,594</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>1,904,048</u>	<u>1,531,263</u>	<u>(1,555,744)</u>	<u>38,169</u>	<u>1,917,736</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>402,403</u>	<u>65,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,169)</u>	<u>456,971</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,306,451</u>	<u>1,597,000</u>	<u>(1,555,744)</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>2,374,707</u>

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

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

Pupil premium funding is received for eligible pupils to assist them within the school.

Other DfE/ESFA grants relate to Universal Infant Free School Meals, sports grants and pupil premium, funding received to assist pupils within the school.

Other government grants relate to LEA funding towards the running of the nursery and pre 16 high needs block funding.

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	947,667	(832,579)	12,312	127,400
UIFSM	-	23,811	-	-	23,811
Pupil premium	-	88,600	(88,600)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	86,341	(84,522)	-	1,819
Other government grants	-	337,296	(325,636)	-	11,660
Pension reserve	(129,000)	-	(23,000)	73,000	(79,000)
	<u>(129,000)</u>	<u>1,483,715</u>	<u>(1,354,337)</u>	<u>85,312</u>	<u>85,690</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	1,342,670	-	-	-	1,342,670
DfE group capital grants	419,137	19,442	(135,138)	(12,312)	291,129
Capital expenditure from GAG	99,361	-	-	-	99,361
Funded from unrestricted funds	11,613	-	-	-	11,613
National Lottery fund	73,585	-	-	-	73,585
	<u>1,946,366</u>	<u>19,442</u>	<u>(135,138)</u>	<u>(12,312)</u>	<u>1,818,358</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>1,817,366</u>	<u>1,503,157</u>	<u>(1,489,475)</u>	<u>73,000</u>	<u>1,904,048</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>318,150</u>	<u>84,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,403</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,135,516</u>	<u>1,587,410</u>	<u>(1,489,475)</u>	<u>73,000</u>	<u>2,306,451</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,809,594	1,809,594
Current assets	578,552	161,142	-	739,694
Current liabilities	(121,581)	-	-	(121,581)
Pension scheme liability	-	(53,000)	-	(53,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>456,971</u>	<u>108,142</u>	<u>1,809,594</u>	<u>2,374,707</u>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,818,358	1,818,358
Current assets	530,696	164,690	-	695,386
Current liabilities	(128,293)	-	-	(128,293)
Pension scheme liability	-	(79,000)	-	(79,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>402,403</u>	<u>85,690</u>	<u>1,818,358</u>	<u>2,306,451</u>

### 19 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 Cheshire West and Chester Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. 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.

Contributions amounting to £23,230 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £16,492) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

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

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

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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 £119,904 (2023: £91,958).

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 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 24.9% to 29.5% 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.

Total contributions made	2024 £	2023 £
Employer's contributions	66,000	68,000
Employees' contributions	18,000	19,000
Total contributions	<u>84,000</u>	<u>87,000</u>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.4	3.7
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	5.2

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.1	21.2
- Females	23.9	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.8	20.9
- Females	25.8	25.8

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

	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	482,000	393,000
Bonds	300,000	249,000
Cash	9,000	8,000
Property	118,000	106,000
Total market value of assets	909,000	756,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £74,000 (2023: £(14,000)).

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	63,000	85,000
Interest income	(41,000)	(31,000)
Interest cost	45,000	37,000
Total amount recognised	67,000	91,000



# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

<b>19</b>	<b>Pension and similar obligations</b>		<b>(Continued)</b>
	<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>		<b>2024</b>
			<b>£</b>
	At 1 September 2023		835,000
	Current service cost		63,000
	Interest cost		45,000
	Employee contributions		18,000
	Actuarial loss		6,000
	Benefits paid		(5,000)
			<hr/>
	At 31 August 2024		962,000
			<hr/> <hr/>
	<b>Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets</b>		<b>2024</b>
			<b>£</b>
	At 1 September 2023		756,000
	Interest income		41,000
	Actuarial gain		33,000
	Employer contributions		66,000
	Employee contributions		18,000
	Benefits paid		(5,000)
			<hr/>
	At 31 August 2024		909,000
			<hr/> <hr/>
<b>20</b>	<b>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	
	Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		41,256
			97,935
	Adjusted for:		
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(6,341)
	Investment income receivable	<b>6</b>	(72)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	<b>19</b>	(3,000)
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>19</b>	4,000
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		141,215
	Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(150)
	(Increase) in stocks		(3,478)
	(Increase) in debtors		(6,437)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(6,712)
			<hr/>
	<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>160,281</b>
			<b>236,592</b>
			<hr/> <hr/>

# CONGLETON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED T/A MARLFIELDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2024 £
Cash	656,843	34,393	691,236

### 22 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	400	400
Amounts due in two and five years	233	633
	<u>633</u>	<u>1,033</u>

### 23 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 trustees have 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.

#### Expenditure related party transactions

The academy Head Teacher who served during the year sat on the board of Love Music Trust as a Primary School representative. The academy purchased music lessons in the year from Love Music Trust amounting to £3,852 (2023: £3,487).

### 24 Members' liability

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