

Company Registration Number: 07533271 (England & Wales)

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 - 2
Directors' Report	3 - 13
Governance Statement	14 - 16
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	17
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	18
Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements	19 - 22
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	23 - 24
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	25 - 26
Consolidated Balance Sheet	27 - 28
Academy trust Balance Sheet	29
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31 - 64

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

D Bell
I Lavelle
K D Bernstone
L Job
R Bell (appointed 10 November 2022)

Directors

D Bell, Chair²
J Cornelius²
T Fisher²
M Garmston¹
S A Hargrove¹
S Hirst-Caraher (resigned 5 October 2022)²
D Judson, Accounting Officer^{1,2}
G Liddle^{1,2}
K Lyle (appointed 24 October 2022)
Z Beach (appointed 9 January 2023)

¹ Members of the Finance and Resources Committee

² Members of the Standards Committee

Company registered number

07533271

Company name

Swift Academies

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Principal and registered office

Croft Road
Hurworth
Darlington
County Durham
DL2 2JG

Chief Executive Officer

D Judson

Executive Leadership Team

D Judson, Chief Executive Officer
A Sweeten, Head of School, Longfield Academy
J Armitage, Head of School; The Rydal Academy
R Somerville, Head of School, Hurworth School (appointed 1 September 2022)
G Hart, Chief Finance Officer
S Jones, Trust Business Manager
L Watson, Trust ICT Manager

Independent auditors

Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 7RT

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
21-23 Northgate
Darlington
Co Durham
DL1 1TL

Solicitors

Weightmans LLP
1 St James' Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Directors' report and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates one primary (The Rydal Academy) and two secondary academies (Longfield Academy and Hurworth School). The three academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,165 and had a roll of 2,020 (excluding nursery and early years) in the census of Autumn 2023.

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 dated 17 February 2011 are the primary governing documents of the company.

The Directors of Swift Academies and are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Swift Academies. The terms Trustees and Directors refer to the same body of people.

Details of the Directors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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.

Directors' indemnities

The academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. Further details are provided in note 12.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors

The academy trust has a set of rules and procedures setting out how it is run and how it conducts its business and meetings. These are known as the Articles of Association and set out the academy trust's charitable objects. The articles detail the constitution of the academy trust and the rules for the appointment and removal of its Members and Directors.

As set out in the articles and funding agreement The Academy trust has the following Directors:

- 8 Directors, appointed under article 50 (see below);
- Chief Executive Officer appointed under article 57; and
- 2 co-opted Directors appointed under article 58.

Appointment of Directors

The Members of the academy trust shall comprise the signatories to the Memorandum and any person appointed under article 15A, provided that at any time the minimum number of Members shall not be less than three.

The Members may agree by passing a special resolution to appoint such additional Members as they see fit (article 15A).

The Members may appoint 8 Directors. The number of Directors shall not be less than three (unless determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum (article 45).

Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Director.

Co-Opted Directors

The Directors may appoint up to 2 co-opted Directors. A 'co-opted Director' means a person who is appointed to be a Director by being co-opted by Directors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Director may not co-opt an employee of the academy trust as a co-opted Director if the number of Directors who are employees of the academy trust would exceed one third of the total number of Directors (including the Chief Executive Officer).

Committees of the Board of Directors

The membership of any committee of the Directors may include persons who are not Directors, provided that (with the exception of the local governing bodies) a majority of members of any such committee shall be Directors. Except in the case of the Local Governing Body, no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of a committee of the Directors unless the majority of the Members present are Directors.

Local Governing Body

The maximum size of the Local Governing Body will be twelve, a Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the Directors, annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The Local Governing Body will be made up of:

- Head Teacher
- 5 Governors appointed by the Directors and Executive Board
- 2 Teaching staff Governors
- 1 Support staff Governor
- 1 Representative from the Executive Leadership Team

Term of Office

The term of office for any Director or Governor shall be 4 years, save that this time shall not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director or Governor, any Director or Governor may be re appointed or re elected.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors

The training and induction provided for new Directors and Governors depends on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Directors meet with the academy trust's Governance Partner and are provided with copies of the Articles of Association, Scheme of Delegation, schedule of meeting dates, Directors Code of Conduct and committee & organisational structure. All Directors and Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role. As there are normally only one or two new Directors and Governors a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

Organisational structure

The academy trust's Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer. His main task is to execute the policies agreed by the academy trust in relation to its education functions and to bring forward for approval, proposals for further improving the quality of educational experience of the academy trust's students.

The Chief Executive Officer advises the Directors on all matters relating to the academy trust and its development.

The Directors ensure good governance of the academy trust and set policies. They can also question implementation of policy where relevant. The Board of Directors has a Finance and Resources Committee and a Standards Committee with specific duties relating to their function. The committees have delegated powers so that action can be taken quickly whenever necessary. Further ad-hoc committees are set up from time to time to advise the Directors on very specific matters.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay policy for all staff, including key management personnel, is governed by the Pay Policy 2022- 2023 and Performance Appraisal Policy adopted by the academy trust. These policies include the academy trust's commitment that teachers are employed in accordance with the provisions of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document.

The Pay Review Committee deals with all pay and performance matters relating to staff including the Chief Executive Officer, Heads of Schools, Head Teachers and other members of key management personnel in accordance with the approved Pay Policy. At least three Directors are members of the committee none of whom are employees of the academy trust.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	-
Full-time equivalent employee number	-

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£000
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Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	-
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Longfield Trading Limited (LTL) is a 100% subsidiary company of Swift Academies. The principal activity of Longfield Trading Limited is to make available the hire of the sporting facility for use by the local community and sporting clubs. Further details on related party relationships are given in note 28 to the financial statements.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The academy trust exists to ensure that standards of education provision at the academy trust are high and that the leadership and management of the academy trust develop them still further.

The Board of Directors meets termly and has committees supporting the detail of its work.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

In furtherance of the 'objects and aims' identified above the academy trust exercises the following powers:

- to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name of the company; to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the academy trust shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;
- to acquire, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge or otherwise dispose of property;
- to employ such staff, as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the object and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants; to establish or support, whether financially or otherwise, any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the object;
- to co operate with other charities, other independent and maintained schools, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the object and to exchange information and advice with them to pay out of funds of the company the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the company;
- to offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to pupils and former pupils, and otherwise to encourage and assist pupils and former pupils;
- to provide educational facilities and services to students of all ages and the wider community for the public benefit;
- to carry out research into the development and application of new techniques in education in particular in relation to the areas of curricular specialisation of the company and to its approach to curriculum development and delivery and to publish the results of such research, and to develop means of benefiting from application of the experience of industry, commerce other schools and the voluntary sector to the education of pupils in academies; subject to such consents as may be required by law and/or by any contract entered into by or on behalf of the company to borrow and raise money for the furtherance of the object in such manner and on such security as the academy trust may think fit;
- to deposit or invest any funds of the academy trust not immediately required for the furtherance of its object (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a financial expert as the Directors consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification); to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert, but only on terms that;
- the investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Directors; every transaction is reported promptly to the Directors;
- the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Directors;
- the Directors are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;
- the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year; all payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Director on receipt;
- the financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Directors to arrange for investments or other property of the company to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the control of the Directors or of a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of Directors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the academy trust: Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Directors knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty which was committed by the Directors in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of an unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Directors in their capacity as Directors;
- to establish subsidiary companies to carry on any trade or business for the purpose of raising funds for the academy trust, and;

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

- to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for or are incidental to or conducive to the achievement of the object.

Swift Academies gained approval to become a MultiAcademy Trust (MAT) on the 1st September 2017 following a successful application to the Secretary of State for Education to become a sponsor academy from the Governing Body of Hurworth School.

The vision of Swift Academies Trust Board is that each child experiences excellence with care every day. The academy trust is founded on deeply held principles that every child has the right to a firstclass education. In addition to the Trust Board, each academy has its own Local Governing Body who take a key role in driving forward achievement and progress within each academy.

The overall purpose of the academy trust is to strengthen provision across all academies within it; the academy trust will do this by providing strategic leadership for all academies through its inclusive ethos and vision and providing strong governance and highquality teaching and learning to ensure students are ready to progress to the next stage of their education, employment or training.

THE INTENT OF THE CURRICULUM

We believe in the widest possible horizons for learning and aim to achieve the finest 2-16 education for all of our students.

The vision of SWIFT (Success, Will, Inspire, Future, Triumphs) Academies is that each child experiences excellence with care every day. The Trust is founded on deeply held principles that every child has the right to a first-class education and in order to achieve this: **Swift Academies provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum that ignites students' love of learning and successfully unlocks the true potential of each individual.**

We ACHIEVE this by providing an ambitious curriculum which:

- Interests and motivates, both through its content and its range of teaching and learning styles
- Enables students to develop substantive and disciplinary knowledge upon which they can build according to their interests and abilities;
- Ensures students are seen as individuals and supported to achieve their potential by removing barriers to learning;
- Allows students to make progress at a challenging pace and which also provides for the development of special aptitudes;
- In addition to fulfilling national requirements, will also meet the broader needs of our children in an ever-changing world;
- The provision and maintenance of an environment in which ALL students can achieve success, and where all students are valued and respected and extend the same value to others;
- The development of a concept of learning as a desirable, life-long and enjoyable process.

OUTCOMES

Our schools as centres of excellence.

Our schools aim to be centres of excellence where every child and young person makes outstanding progress and is ready for the next stage in their education and lives. Our staff feel valued and can access opportunities for professional and career development and to share their skills and expertise across the Trust and with other schools.

Priorities for The Year Ahead:

- To ensure Longfield Academy is focussed on achieving positive monitoring visits and by the next full Ofsted inspection the academy will have improved from the current inadequate status. All issues that placed it in serious weaknesses will have been addressed and strategies will have been successfully implemented to secure a Good Ofsted grade for the quality of education and leadership in the next Ofsted visit.
- To ensure The Rydal Academy, builds on its Good Ofsted Judgement (December 2022) and implements

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

strategies and structures to enable it to secure a Good/Outstanding judgement in all areas at the next Ofsted visit.

- To ensure Hurworth School, builds on its Good Ofsted Judgement (October 2022) and implements strategies and structures to enable it to secure a Good/Outstanding judgement in all areas at the next Ofsted visit.
- All students achieve high levels of progress leading to high attainment and enhanced social mobility.
- The academic and wider curriculum; advice and guidance at all stages of education adds value to student's personal development.
- Students educational experience leads to the development of skills to become positive, successful, resilient and caring citizens.
- Ensure that safeguarding practices across the Trust are of an exemplary standard and are implemented accordingly.
- Embed a programme of internal and external Quality Assurance to ensure that all schools within the Trust have systems and practices in place to support continued improvement.
- Further develop and deliver a Trust model that meets the professional development needs of all staff within the Trust.
- To endeavour to build a body of positive, committed and valued staff.
- To build a skilled, engaged and effective team for the governance of the Trust at all levels.

Public benefit

The academy trusts aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Directors have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Directors have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy trust should undertake.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Key performance indicators

The Rydal Academy

The Rydal Academy joined the academy trust on 1 March 2018 and is currently graded as Good by Ofsted following inspection in December 2022. Self-Evaluation grades The Rydal Academy as a Good school.

In 2023 Key Stage 2 progress scores were above the National Average in Reading but below the National Average in Maths and Writing.

In 2023 Combined Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths at Expectation+ was below National Averages. Disadvantaged Pupils underperformed against All pupils in all areas. Pupil mobility has a significant impact on outcomes. Pupils who had been on roll since Reception outperformed All pupils in Reading, Writing and Combined.

In 2023 Combined Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths for pupils reaching a Higher Level of Attainment was below National Averages. Disadvantaged Pupils underperformed against All pupils in all areas. Pupils who had been on roll since Reception outperformed All pupils in Reading and Combined.

Longfield Academy

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Longfield Academy joined Swift Academies as sponsored academy on 1 March 2018. In April 2022 the academy was inspected and received an Ofsted Inadequate grading overall and was identified as having serious weaknesses.

Quality of Education and Personal Development received Requires Improvement judgements and Behaviour & Attitudes and Leadership & Management were graded as inadequate.

In April 2022 the Academy secured an experienced Head Teacher with a proven track record of improvement; this has had immediate impact on the school's improvement journey. A new Behaviour Policy and strategy has been implemented, with a 50% reduction in suspensions in comparison to the same point last year.

Governance has changed and has added to progress towards the leadership and management judgement.

All eight areas for improvement as identified in the Ofsted report have been addressed with the initial focus being on the two inadequate judgements. These areas have been improved and systems and procedures embedded. The focus for 2023 is therefore on embedding action points identified and in place to improve the Quality of Education and Personal Development.

Longfield has undergone two monitoring visits from Ofsted in January 2023 and September 2023. Both monitoring visits were positive and recognised that effective action has been taken. Both reports recognised that the school was being well led and that key issues were being prioritised effectively with no further recommendations made on either visit.

Since becoming part of Swift Academies, Longfield Academy have significantly improved results of the pupils. This has remained the case despite the Ofsted judgement.

In 2022 the P8 score was -0.11, (which under the DFE criteria rates it as Average for this measure) a 0.01 drop from the results in 2019. Early indicators for 2023 results demonstrate that progress is in line with 2022 and 2019.

Hurworth School

Hurworth was inspected by OFSTED on 21st and 22nd September 2022; the school was graded as 'Good' in all areas.

Throughout the academic year 2022-23, the school implemented a robust and rigorous quality assurance programme, which has been complemented by the realignment of a staff development system that has focussed on staff developing their pedagogy through the use of focused whole staff training and observations.

Results for 2023 cannot be compared to 2022 due to the Government return to 2019 boundaries. Whole school attainment is in line with 2019 4.95 (4.87). The GCSE 5+ outcome for the Core Subjects is slightly higher than 2019.

The school's Improvement Plan for 2023 focusses on embedding quality assurance processes and diminishing the differences for Disadvantaged and SEND pupils through quality first teaching.

A clear focus will continue towards our areas for development from OFSTED.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Going concern

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

Financial review

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with The Charities SORP (FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £16,663,000 was in excess of recurrent grant funding from the DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (before transfers, LGPS pension adjustments and actuarial gains, and excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £167,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy trust's objectives. At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £29,723,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy trust.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of the LGPS pensions scheme. resulting in a deficit of £984,000 recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £29,650,000 comprising £30,367,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, £(984,000) of pension deficit fund and £267,000 of unrestricted funds.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reserves policy

The academy trust holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds).

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Directors regularly throughout the year; this review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Directors are particularly mindful of the uncertainty in both revenue and capital funding in the future, and therefore think that it is appropriate to hold reserves of £250,000 to cover any unforeseen costs.

The academy trust's current level of free reserves are in surplus by £443,000, these reserves are considered sufficient to cover unexpected significant cost pressures, in particular with relation to:

- Emergency repairs
- Damage to property
- Business continuity planning
- Sustainability of Associated School Transport Policy for Hurworth School

The Directors are currently in the process of looking at centralising some of the costs within the academy trust such as technology and energy to allow the academy trust to make some savings, cutting expenditure and therefore increasing reserves to the desired amount.

The Directors continue to review additional activities related to the academy trust's objectives which the reserves may be applied; central to this is the regular updating of the Trust Estate Strategy & Trust Development Plan that reviews and prioritises projects at all academy trust schools.

Investment policy

When there is excess cash, in accordance with the investments policy, funds are placed on deposit.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties are centered on changes in the level of funding from the DfE/ESFA. In addition the academy trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the academy trust Balance Sheet.

The Directors have assessed the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy trust, and its finances. The Directors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the each academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The academy trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safe Recruitment procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

The academy trust is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academy trusts. The academy trust has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks.

Risk management

The academy trust is mindful of further budget pressures with cuts from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Darlington Borough Council and increases in pension costs. As a result, all SLA's, Contracts, Services etc. are subject to ongoing review across the academy trust to maximise savings where possible.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

The academy trust currently includes 3 academies with the aim to expand to a minimum of 5 schools with above 3,000 pupils to enable it to attract the additional funding that this brings; discussions are currently on going with interested parties.

In April 2023 the respective Board of Directors from both Swift and Queen Elizabeth VI Form College resolved to commence the process of the “coming together” of both organisations, subject to Head Teacher Board approval, formal consultation and due diligence processes all being concluded satisfactorily in the Spring Term 2024.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

The Directors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Directors, as the company directors, on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

D Bell
Chair

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The Board of Directors has formally met 5 times during the year. To maintain effective oversight of all financial matter the Finance and Resources Committee which is a sub committee formally meets an additional 3 times to oversee the academy trust financial affairs.

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

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Bell, Chair	4	5
J Cornelius	3	5
T Fisher	3	5
M Garmston	5	5
S A Hargrove	4	5
D Judson, Accounting Officer	5	5
G Liddle	0	5
K Lyle	3	5
Z Beach	3	3

In terms of conflicts of interest, we manage these by ensuring annual declarations are made with Directors and those involved in local governance, and this is a standard agenda item on all Full Board, Trust committees and Local Academy Committee meetings. This can be evidenced in agendas and minutes of these meetings. The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub committee of the main Board of Directors. The committee has formally met 3 times during the year. Its purpose is to oversee the academy trust's financial affairs and assist the decision making of the Board of Directors. Attendance at meeting in the year is as follows:

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Committee members	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Liddle	2	3
S A Hargrove	2	3
D Judson, Accounting Officer	2	3
M Garmston	3	3
Z Beach	2	2

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

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

- Reviewing contracts: all contracts are constantly being reviewed to ensure value for money is achieved.
- Income Generation: Despite the impact of closure due to COVID 19 the trading arm of the academy trust continued to be a success during the period of operation. The company predominately hires the sporting facilities to the local community, with the profit being gift aided back to the academy trust.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The Trust regularly reviews the risk registers, the Trust Development Plan and the audit finding report for Directors to ensure that the programme for internal scrutiny is appropriately focused. The system of internal control has been in place in Swift Academies for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Directors 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 Directors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Directors
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes 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

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The Board of Directors has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Anderson Barrowcliffe LLP.

The reviewer's' role includes giving advice on financial and other 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:

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of purchase systems
- Testing of regularity procedures
- Review of any updates to the Finance Procedures Manual
- Review of meeting minutes
- Review of income recording procedures
- Review of Director appointments/resignations and declarations of interest
- Review of VAT recording procedures
- Testing of expenses and petty cash systems
- Review of Fixed Asset recording procedures
- Review of IT systems

On a termly basis, the reviewers report to the Board of Directors through the Finance and Resources Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities.

The external auditors have delivered their schedule of work as planned and no material control issues have arisen as a result of their work.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external reviewer;

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 Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 15 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

D Bell
Chair

D Judson
Accounting Officer

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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

D Judson
Accounting Officer
Date: 14 December 2023

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

D Bell
Chair

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SWIFT ACADEMIES

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of the Group's 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Directors' 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 Group's or the parent 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 Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SWIFT
ACADEMIES (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Directors' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the parent academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report including the 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:

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

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the Directors (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent 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 Directors either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SWIFT
ACADEMIES (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Trust. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.
- Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SWIFT
ACADEMIES (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

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

Christopher Beaumont BA(Hons) FCA BFP DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Clive Owen LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

Darlington

Co Durham

DL3 7RT

Date:

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SWIFT
ACADEMIES AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Swift Academies during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Swift Academies and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Swift Academies 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 Swift Academies and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Swift Academies's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Swift Academies's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 March 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- Review documentation provided to Directors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Directors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review cash payments for unusual transactions;
- Review of credit card transactions;

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SWIFT
ACADEMIES AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

- Review of registers of interests;
- Review related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing agreements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- Review whistleblowing procedures;
- Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;
- Review of staff expenses;
- Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- Review governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- Review whether there is a risk register in place.

Conclusion

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

Clive Owen LLP
Reporting Accountant

140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 7RT

Date:

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	87	-	133	220	675
Other trading activities	5	416	103	(3)	516	476
Charitable activities		409	14,515	-	14,924	14,064
Total income		<u>912</u>	<u>14,618</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>15,660</u>	<u>15,215</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	1,107	14,687	869	16,663	15,940
Total expenditure		<u>1,107</u>	<u>14,687</u>	<u>869</u>	<u>16,663</u>	<u>15,940</u>
Net expenditure		(195)	(69)	(739)	(1,003)	(725)
Transfers between funds	19	-	(118)	118	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		<u>(195)</u>	<u>(187)</u>	<u>(621)</u>	<u>(1,003)</u>	<u>(725)</u>
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	1,603	-	1,603	8,174
Net movement in funds		<u>(195)</u>	<u>1,416</u>	<u>(621)</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>7,449</u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Note					
Reconciliation of funds:					
	19				
Total funds brought forward	638	(2,400)	30,812	29,050	21,601
Net movement in funds	(195)	1,416	(621)	600	7,449
Total funds carried forward	<u>443</u>	<u>(984)</u>	<u>30,191</u>	<u>29,650</u>	<u>29,050</u>

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 31 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	29,723	29,902
		<u>29,723</u>	<u>29,902</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	10	8
Debtors	16	1,139	1,471
Cash at bank and in hand		743	1,048
		<u>1,892</u>	<u>2,527</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(890)	(863)
		<u>1,002</u>	<u>1,664</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,002</u>	<u>1,664</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>30,725</u>	<u>31,566</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(91)	(116)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>30,634</u>	<u>31,450</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(984)	(2,400)
Total net assets		<u><u>29,650</u></u>	<u><u>29,050</u></u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	30,191	30,812
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	30,191	30,812
Pension reserve	19	(984)	(2,400)
Total restricted funds	19	29,207	28,412
Unrestricted income funds	19	443	638
Total funds		29,650	29,050

The financial statements on pages 25 to 64 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf, by:

D Bell
Chair

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271

ACADEMY TRUST BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	29,722	29,901
		29,722	29,901
Current assets			
Stocks	15	10	8
Debtors	16	1,112	1,446
Cash at bank and in hand		735	1,019
		1,857	2,473
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(884)	(856)
		973	1,617
Net current assets		973	1,617
Total assets less current liabilities		30,695	31,518
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(91)	(116)
Net assets excluding pension liability		30,604	31,402
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(984)	(2,400)
Total net assets		29,620	29,002
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	30,191	30,812
Pension reserve	19	(984)	(2,400)
Total restricted funds		29,207	28,412
Unrestricted income funds		413	590
Total funds		29,620	29,002

The financial statements on pages 25 to 64 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf, by:

D Bell
Chair

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	249	514
Cash flows from investing activities			
	23	(557)	(232)
Cash flows from financing activities			
	22	3	(10)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(305)	272
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,048	776
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u>743</u>	<u>1,048</u>

The notes on pages 31 to 64 form part of these financial statements

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the academy trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Going concern

The Directors 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 group to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Consolidated 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 Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year 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 year it is receivable and to the extent the group has provided the goods or services.

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Group)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the group'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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Basis of Consolidation

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the academy trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption contained within section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Income and Expenditure Account.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Consolidated 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 Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Leasehold property	- 2% straight line
Leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Furniture and Equipment	- 14-33% straight line
Plant and Machinery	- 14-33% straight line
Motor Vehicle	- 14-25% straight line

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

1.7 Investments

The academy trust's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, Longfield Trading Limited, is included in the academy trust's Balance Sheet at the cost of the share capital less impairment. There is no readily available market value and the cost of valuation exceeds the benefit derived.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 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 group 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.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the group has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.11 Stocks

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

1.12 Taxation

The group 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 group is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 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.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Group are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Group 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 prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Group 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 operating surplus 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 Consolidated 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.

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 as detailed in notes 17 and 18. 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. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Goodwin

The case related to male spouse or civil partner of a female member is treated in the same way as a same-sex spouse or civil partner. Survivor benefits will be calculated using service from 1 April 1972, or 6 April 1978 if the marriage or civil partnership took place after the last day of pensionable service. This change will apply for deaths in respect of female members which occurred from 5 December 2005, which is the date that same-sex civil partnerships were introduced. This case was brought against the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Actuaries have estimated that the impact of Goodwin indexation to be less than 0.1% of total liabilities. Based on this estimate it would increase liabilities by £13,000 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

Depreciation — Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £869,000.

Critical areas of judgment:

Land – Land is held under a 125 year lease from Darlington Borough Council. These assets are included on the Balance Sheet of the group due to the significant risks and rewards of ownership belonging to the group, the lease term being the major part of the economic life of the assets and the assets being of such a specialised nature that only the group could use them without major modification.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

Unrestricted funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds	Total funds
2023	2023	2023	2022
£000	£000	£000	£000

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Donations	87	-	87	6
Capital Grants	-	133	133	378
Other capital income	-	-	-	291
	<u>87</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>675</u>
Total 2022	<u>6</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>675</u>	

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Academy's educational operations				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	11,761	11,761	11,450
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	893	893	866
PE and Sport Premium	-	21	21	21
UIFSM	-	45	45	39
Rates	-	-	-	49
Teachers' pay grant	-	2	2	2
Teachers' pension grant	-	4	4	6
Other DfE Group grants	-	28	28	25
Supplementary grant	-	362	362	151
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	181	181	-
	-	13,297	13,297	12,609
Other Government grants				
SEN	-	479	479	425
Early Years Funding	-	191	191	164
Local Authority grants	-	95	95	178
Other Government grants	-	110	110	4
	-	875	875	771
Other income from the academy trust's academy's educational operations				
	409	86	495	447
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	257	257	237
	-	257	257	237
	409	14,515	14,924	14,064
	409	14,515	14,924	14,064
Total 2022	411	13,653	14,064	

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Non student catering income	7	-	7	1
Rental and lettings income	-	-	-	1
RPA Claims	12	27	39	26
Other	217	73	290	302
Trading subsidiary	180	-	180	146
Total 2023	<u>416</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>516</u>	<u>476</u>
Total 2022	<u>450</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>476</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £000	Other 2023 £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Academy trust's educational operations:				
Direct costs	10,246	798	11,044	10,949
Allocated support costs	1,887	3,582	5,469	4,878
Trading subsidiary:				
Allocated support costs	78	72	150	113
	<u>12,211</u>	<u>4,452</u>	<u>16,663</u>	<u>15,940</u>
Total 2022	<u>12,163</u>	<u>3,777</u>	<u>15,940</u>	

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6. Expenditure (continued)

In 2023, of the total expenditure £1,107,000 (2022 - £609,000) was to unrestricted funds, £14,687,000 (2022 - £14,491,000) was to restricted funds and £869,000 (2022 - £840,000) was to restricted fixed asset funds.

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 for:

- Compensation payments
- Gift made by the trust
- Fixed asset losses
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts
- Cash losses

There were no ex-gratia payments in the year.

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £000	Support costs 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Academy's educational operations	11,044	5,469	16,513	15,827
Trading subsidiary	-	150	150	113
	<u>11,044</u>	<u>5,619</u>	<u>16,663</u>	<u>15,940</u>
Total 2022	<u>10,949</u>	<u>4,991</u>	<u>15,940</u>	

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Academy's educational operations 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Staff costs	10,246	10,246	10,242
Educational supplies	573	573	537
Examination fees	144	144	129
Staff development	35	35	26
Staff expenses	14	14	15
Other costs	32	32	-
	<u>11,044</u>	<u>11,044</u>	<u>10,949</u>
Total 2022	<u>10,949</u>	<u>10,949</u>	

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Academy's educational operations 2023 £000	Trading subsidiary 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Net interest on pension scheme	88	-	88	161
Staff costs	1,878	87	1,965	1,921
Depreciation	869	-	869	840
Technology costs	249	-	249	203
Transport	213	-	213	196
Maintenance of premises	223	19	242	183
Cleaning	11	-	11	8
Other premises costs	128	-	128	111
Energy	491	-	491	273
Rent & rates	-	-	-	50
Insurance	69	-	69	57
Operating lease rentals	42	-	42	44
Catering	421	-	421	354
Legal costs - other	95	(6)	89	8
Other costs	669	50	719	572
Governance costs	23	-	23	10
	<u>5,469</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>5,619</u>	<u>4,991</u>
Total 2022	<u>4,878</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>4,991</u>	

8. Net expenditure

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Operating lease rentals	44	44
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	869	840
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	13	11
- other services	1	1
	<u>927</u>	<u>906</u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Wages and salaries	8,759	8,222	8,683	8,150
Social security costs	926	878	915	867
Pension costs	1,994	2,534	1,994	2,534
	<u>11,679</u>	<u>11,634</u>	<u>11,592</u>	<u>11,551</u>
Agency staff costs	491	488	491	488
Staff restructuring costs	41	41	41	41
	<u>12,211</u>	<u>12,163</u>	<u>12,124</u>	<u>12,080</u>

Included in operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes is a debit of £99,000 (2022: £761,000) relating to the pension deficit actuarial adjustment.

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Severance payments	41	41	41	41
	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>

The academy trust paid 3 severance payments in the year. All three payments were in the £0 - £25,000 band.

b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £41,000 (2022: £15,000). This was comprised of individual figures of £8,000, £8,000, £13,000, £6,000, and £6,000.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.	Academy Trust 2023 No.	Academy Trust 2022 No.
Teachers	111	119	111	119
Administration and support	138	121	138	121
Management	20	22	20	22
	<u>269</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>262</u>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	11	10
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	1
In the band £150,001 - £160,000	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the group comprise the Directors and the Executive Leadership Team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the group was £791,000 (2022: £688,000).

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

10. Directors' remuneration and expenses

One or more Directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff Directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023 £000	2022 £000
D Judson, Chief Executive Officer	Remuneration	160 - 165	155 - 160
	Pension contributions paid	35 - 40	35 - 40

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Director expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

11. Central services

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

- Legal services
- Human resources
- Financial services

The Group charges for these services on the following basis:

Charges have been made based on the amount of pupils at each academy, and support and services each academy requires.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Hurworth School	266	255
Longfield Academy	266	255
The Rydal Academy	266	255
Total	798	765

12. Directors' and Officers' insurance

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

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Freehold property £000	Long- term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Plant and machinery £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2022	11,764	22,090	1,570	2	44	35,470
Additions	321	176	193	-	-	690
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,085</u>	<u>22,266</u>	<u>1,763</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>36,160</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	2,270	2,071	1,200	1	26	5,568
Charge for the year	233	482	154	-	-	869
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,503</u>	<u>2,553</u>	<u>1,354</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6,437</u>
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>9,582</u></u>	<u><u>19,713</u></u>	<u><u>409</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>18</u></u>	<u><u>29,723</u></u>
At 31 August 2022	<u><u>9,494</u></u>	<u><u>20,019</u></u>	<u><u>370</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>18</u></u>	<u><u>29,902</u></u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Academy Trust

	Freehold property £000	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	11,764	22,090	1,570	44	35,468
Additions	321	176	193	-	690
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,085</u>	<u>22,266</u>	<u>1,763</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>36,158</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	2,270	2,071	1,200	26	5,567
Charge for the year	233	482	154	-	869
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,503</u>	<u>2,553</u>	<u>1,354</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6,436</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	<u>9,582</u>	<u>19,713</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29,722</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>9,494</u>	<u>20,019</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29,901</u>

14. Fixed asset investments

Swift Academies owns one trading subsidiary, Longfield Trading Limited. The subsidiary is 100% owned.

15. Stocks

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Catering stock	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16. Debtors

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	39	2	39	2
Other debtors	2	38	-	38
Prepayments and accrued income	1,017	1,331	992	1,306
VAT recoverable	81	100	81	100
	<u>1,139</u>	<u>1,471</u>	<u>1,112</u>	<u>1,446</u>

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Bank overdrafts	96	-	96	-
Other loans	16	9	16	9
Trade creditors	205	330	204	329
Amounts owed to group undertakings	5	5	1	2
Other taxation and social security	215	206	214	204
Other creditors	220	205	220	205
Accruals and deferred income	133	108	133	107
	<u>890</u>	<u>863</u>	<u>884</u>	<u>856</u>

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	35	47	35	47
Resources deferred during the year	28	35	28	35
Amounts released from previous periods	(35)	(47)	(35)	(47)
	<u>28</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>35</u>

As at the Balance Sheet date the group was holding grants in relation to rates relief and UIFSM.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	Academy Trust 2023 £000	Academy Trust 2022 £000
Other loans	91	116	91	116
	91	116	91	116

Included in other creditors are three loans from Salix which is provided on the following terms:

- Interest free loan of £21,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £1,330 from September 2018
- Interest free loan of £9,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £540 from March 2019
- Interest free loan of £19,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £1,185 from September 2019
- Interest free loan of £99,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments. The start date of repayments is yet to be determined.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	465	780	(957)	-	-	288
Sinking Fund	125	-	-	-	-	125
Trading subsidiary	48	132	(150)	-	-	30
	<u>638</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>(1,107)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>443</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	11,762	(11,644)	(118)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	893	(893)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	101	(101)	-	-	-
SEN	-	479	(479)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	396	(396)	-	-	-
Covid-19 funding	-	801	(801)	-	-	-
Other income	-	99	(99)	-	-	-
Restricted Fund 9	-	87	(87)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,400)	-	(187)	-	1,603	(984)
	<u>(2,400)</u>	<u>14,618</u>	<u>(14,687)</u>	<u>(118)</u>	<u>1,603</u>	<u>(984)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,536	-	(142)	-	-	5,394
Inherited funds	20,632	-	(500)	-	-	20,132
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,229	-	(104)	118	-	1,243
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	31	-	(1)	-	-	30
14-19	435	-	(7)	-	-	428

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Donations	42	-	(11)	-	-	31
Big Lottery	10	-	-	-	-	10
Sport England	71	-	(2)	-	-	69
Playing pitches	26	-	(1)	-	-	25
ECB	120	-	(3)	-	-	117
DBC	68	-	(1)	-	-	67
Nursery funding	25	-	-	-	-	25
Other Capital	268	-	-	-	-	268
Condition improvement fund	2,319	-	(37)	-	-	2,282
DFC	-	130	(12)	-	-	118
Insurance	-	-	(48)	-	-	(48)
	30,812	130	(869)	118	-	30,191
Total Restricted funds	28,412	14,748	(15,556)	-	1,603	29,207
Total funds	29,050	15,660	(16,663)	-	1,603	29,650

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 of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (included within Other DfE/ESFA Grants) is funding to provide a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants also includes the PE and sport premium grant, rates relief, teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant.

Other Government grants include Early Years funding for three and four year old children, funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and other income from the local authority.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 26.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

allocated accordingly.

A transfer of £612,000 has been made to capital expenditure from GAG to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased using GAG monies.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	255	867	(609)	-	-	513
Sinking Fund	125	-	-	-	-	125
	<u>380</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>(609)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>638</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	11,450	(11,366)	(84)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	866	(866)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	293	(293)	-	-	-
SEN	-	425	(425)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	346	(346)	-	-	-
Covid-19 funding	-	237	(237)	-	-	-
Other income	-	36	(36)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(9,652)	-	(922)	-	8,174	(2,400)
	<u>(9,652)</u>	<u>13,653</u>	<u>(14,491)</u>	<u>(84)</u>	<u>8,174</u>	<u>(2,400)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,638	45	(147)	-	-	5,536
Inherited funds	21,132	-	(500)	-	-	20,632
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,235	-	(90)	84	-	1,229

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	32	-	(1)	-	-	31
14-19	442	-	(7)	-	-	435
Darlington Education Trust	1	-	(1)	-	-	-
Donations	53	-	(11)	-	-	42
Big Lottery	10	-	-	-	-	10
Sport England	73	-	(2)	-	-	71
Playing pitches	27	-	(1)	-	-	26
ECB	123	-	(3)	-	-	120
DBC	68	-	-	-	-	68
Nursery funding	26	-	(1)	-	-	25
Other Capital	-	318	(50)	-	-	268
Condition improvement fund	2,013	332	(26)	-	-	2,319
	<u>30,873</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>(840)</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,812</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>21,221</u>	<u>14,348</u>	<u>(15,331)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,174</u>	<u>28,412</u>
Total funds	<u><u>21,601</u></u>	<u><u>15,215</u></u>	<u><u>(15,940)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>8,174</u></u>	<u><u>29,050</u></u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Hurworth School	38	181
Longfield Academy	103	92
The Rydal Academy	294	337
Longfield Trading Limited	6	25
Central Services	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	443	638
Restricted fixed asset fund	30,191	30,812
Pension reserve	(984)	(2,400)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	29,650	29,050
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Hurworth School	3,330	319	240	1,146	5,035	4,390
Longfield Academy	4,200	374	242	668	5,484	5,670
The Rydal Academy	2,511	482	88	710	3,791	3,240
Longfield Trading Limited	-	87	-	62	149	113
Central Services	346	556	14	419	1,335	1,687
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Academy trust	10,387	1,818	584	3,005	15,794	15,100
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	29,723	29,723
Current assets	548	774	570	1,892
Creditors due within one year	(105)	(774)	(11)	(890)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(91)	(91)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(984)	-	(984)
Total	443	(984)	30,191	29,650

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	279	-	29,623	29,902
Current assets	805	533	1,189	2,527
Creditors due within one year	(330)	(533)	-	(863)
Creditors due in more than one year	(116)	-	-	(116)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,400)	-	(2,400)
Total	638	(2,400)	30,812	29,050

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,003)	(725)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	870	840
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(133)	(695)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	99	761
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	88	161
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(2)	(2)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	332	134
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(2)	40
Net cash provided by operating activities	249	514

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
New loan	7	-
Loan repayments	(4)	(10)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	3	(10)

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(690)	(967)
Capital grants from DfE Group	133	735
Net cash used in investing activities	(557)	(232)

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	743	1,048
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>743</u>	<u>1,048</u>

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,048	(305)	743
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	-	(96)	(96)
Debt due within 1 year	(9)	(7)	(16)
Debt due after 1 year	(116)	25	(91)
	<u>923</u>	<u>(383)</u>	<u>540</u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26. Pension commitments

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 Durham County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £220,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £387,000) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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 specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,370,000 (2022 - £1,326,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £696,000 (2022 - £600,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £510,000 (2022 - £452,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 186,000 (2022 - £148,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.3% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 % for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	3.70
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	4.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60	2.70
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	85.00	85.00

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.7	22.1
Females	23.9	24.2
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	25.0	25.7

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(252)	(310)
Discount rate -0.1%	264	322
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(327)	(347)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	327	347
CPI rate +0.1%	239	273
CPI rate -0.1%	(226)	(260)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Share of scheme assets

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2023 £000	At 31 August 2022 £000
Equities	5,902	5,760
Government bonds	1,229	1,190
Corporate bonds	1,090	463
Property	870	884
Cash	2,505	2,232
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total market value of assets	<u>11,596</u>	<u>10,529</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £813,000 (2022 - £1,123,000 deficit).

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost	(609)	(1,213)
Interest income	437	195
Interest cost	(525)	(356)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	<u>(697)</u>	<u>(1,374)</u>

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	12,929	20,966
Current service cost	609	1,213
Interest cost	525	356
Employee contributions	186	148
Actuarial gains	(1,227)	(9,492)
Benefits paid	(442)	(262)
At 31 August	12,580	12,929

Changes in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	10,529	11,314
Interest income	437	195
Actuarial gains/(losses)	376	(1,318)
Employer contributions	510	452
Employee contributions	186	148
Benefits paid	(442)	(262)
At 31 August	11,596	10,529

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023 the Group and the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
GROUP Amount Payable		
Within 1 year	109	28
Between 1 and 5 years	170	22
	279	50

SWIFT ACADEMIES
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

28. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the group and the composition of the Board of Directors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Directors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the group's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

Directors' remuneration and expenses are already disclosed in note 10.