

Company registration number 08265245 (England and Wales)

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Members

Ms L Outhwaite
Ms L Cresswell (resigned 31/12/2023)
Ms C Seaward
Mr S Smith
Chair of Governors (Ex Officio)

Governors

Mr S Boyd (Accounting Officer and Head Teacher)
Mr G J Peace (Chair of Governors)
Mrs S McLoughlin
Mrs R Lawson
Mr R Bagshawe
Mr N May
Mr M Davies

Senior management team

- Head teacher and accounting officer	Mr S Boyd
- Teacher/ Head of Department	Mr R Peace
- Teacher/ Head of Department	Ms D Steele
- Teacher/ Head of Department	Mr M Williams
- Head of administration and HR	Ms V Turtle (resigned 29 February 2024)
- Chief Financial Officer	Ms N Naude
- Head of administration	Ms S Turner (from 1 April 2024)
- Head of pupil development and wellbeing	Ms A Sheen (appointed 1 November 2023)

Company secretary

Ms V Sampson

Company registration number

08265245 (England and Wales)

Registered office

The Island Free School
Newport Road
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1BG

Independent auditor

Moore (South) LLP
9 St Johns Place
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1LH

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
Solent Corporate Scheme
PO Box 60
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1XE

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The Island Free School is a single academy trust for 11-16 year olds, serving the Isle of Wight. There is a Pupil Administration Number (PAN) of 125 per cohort and the school continues to be oversubscribed. The school continues to grow in every sense and the achievements were further underlined this year when, despite the ramifications of the covid pandemic, our Year 11 pupils achieved GCSE results above Island and National averages in many subject areas. This was the first set of exam based GCSE results for 2 years, following teacher assessed grades during the pandemic. We were able to continue to thrive in these circumstances and deliver on all of the key performance indicators including school attendance figures that were in line with pre-covid levels, comparable GCSE results for our year 11 cohort and the vast majority of pupils leaving the school to study their chosen course at their first choice provider.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The charitable company is known as The Island Free School (Island Community School).

The governors are the trustees of Island Community School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the governors 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 £1, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Governors' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 Governors shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Island Community School against any liability incurred by him or her in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his or her favour or in which he or she is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him or her by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Island Community School. For this purpose Island Community School has insurance in place covering Governor's liability, with a limit of indemnity of £10,000,000.

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of governors

When necessary the members and directors of the Island Free School advertises for governors through local media sources and via the school website. Parent governors are recruited from the parent body and, when a post becomes available, all parents are contacted via email to advertise the post.

Each prospective governor is sent a school prospectus and a copy of the governance policy as well as a copy of this document. Prospective governors will be asked to produce a pen portrait of themselves which includes skills they possess which they feel would be relevant to one or more of the committees.

Prospective governors will then be invited to attend an informal evening where they can meet members of the proposer group, company members and directors.

Following on from this evening each prospective governor will be invited to attend one committee meeting linked to their relevant skills. Prospective governors will not be eligible to vote at this meeting and may be asked to step out if there any sensitive matters to be discussed.

At this point the relevant body will take a vote on the appointment. This includes Staff and Parent Governors. In the case of prospective parent governors the pen portraits are shared with all parents and a vote is taken among parents to choose their representative.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of governors

Governors are provided with an induction process and relevant training to their roles. Continued Professional Development is conducted during the year at meetings. Governors are members of various sub committees based on their relevant skills. All Governors have access to the NGA member's area and Learning Link and receive a quarterly magazine. There is also the possibility to attend online conferences and Webinars via the NGA membership.

Organisational structure

The School has a management structure of the Trustees, the Board of Governors and a Senior Management Team led by the Head Teacher. There is a clear, written, Scheme of Delegation that has been adopted.

The Board of Governors is responsible for appointing the Head Teacher, making major strategic decisions, setting general policy and adopting the annual budget.

The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer and is responsible for the day to day management of the school.

School policies are developed by senior members of the school's staff to reflect both the strategic directions agreed by the Governors and also the statutory requirements. These policies are approved and adopted by the Board of Governors and implemented as procedures and systems by the Senior Management Team.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration for all staff including all those with key management responsibilities lies with the governing body Leadership, Management and Finance Committee and are set out in the school's pay policy. In November each year this committee meets and the Head Teacher outlines the staffing needs for the coming year. Salaries for roles are agreed using the Teachers Pay and Conditions Document as a benchmark. All salaries including those of senior leaders are reviewed every two years as part of the school's performance management process. At the end of each academic year the Head Teacher meets with the Leadership, Management and Finance Committee to share performance management outcomes and highlight each colleague who is to be considered for salary increase.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	-
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

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	3,580,061
Percentage of the 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

There are no connected organisations and where there are transactions with related parties, these are disclosed in notes to these accounts.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The aim is to establish a Free School on the Isle of Wight with a performing arts specialism, operating according to the vision and ethos set out by the members, to improve educational standards on the Isle of Wight.

Our Ethos

At the Island Free School it is our aspiration to improve the educational outcomes for children in the South Wight (and the wider island). In 2014 only 25% of year 11 pupils with a South Wight postcode achieved 5 A* to C grades including Maths and English, only 19% of year 11 pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium achieved 5A* to C and only 9% on South Wight children went on to study at Higher Education providers. It is our enduring mission to improve each of these statistics and our aspiration to ensure that every child is given every opportunity to achieve.

This aim is achieved through the rigorous application of 7 visions set out in our application to open a Free School in 2014. Each of these visions we identified as a key component in ensuring every child is given every opportunity to achieve.

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Our Vision

V1. A caring school that is small enough for every student to be known by a member of staff.

The Island Free School will be a human scale school where all students will receive the academic and emotional support they deserve in order to achieve their full potential. We will offer an accelerated KS3 programme of study which will allow us to offer up to three years for students to complete a GCSE programme of study which will include the English Baccalaureate for all students.

V2. A disciplined school where students will be offered a grammar school style education in a truly comprehensive setting.

The Island Free School will offer a curriculum built around the core subjects to develop all our students toward the English Baccalaureate. All students will be offered a further 2 options subjects and more able students will be able to study further GCSEs as part of our enrichment programme. We will combine this with a specialism in Performing Arts designed to broaden experience and develop fully rounded students. All students will study music for 2 hours in KS3 and GCSE music will be offered as an option in KS4. All students will be expected to play at least one musical instrument.

V3. An aspirational school where student progress is paramount.

The Island Free School will have the highest expectations of all staff and all students. A rigorous and robust system for monitoring and tracking will underpin our efforts to ensure that all of our students are making good to outstanding progress in all areas. Staff will be supported in developing outstanding lessons through our coaching observation programme.

V4. An innovative school with a longer day that includes a full and varied extra-curricular programme for all staff and all students.

Our school will include a mandatory extra-curricular hour which will offer a wide range of enrichment activities and academic intervention for all students supported by all staff (teaching and non-teaching), by parents and by members of the wider community.

V5. An enthusiastic school in which all teachers are passionate about learning and have a proven track record.

The Island Free School will recognise that its staff are its most valuable asset and will ensure that all feel valued and supported in a school that is a source of personal pride to everyone. We will develop an outstanding recruitment and retention package to ensure consistency throughout the school.

V6. An ambitious school where students are encouraged to think for themselves.

At the Island Free School all students will be encouraged to be independent, self-motivated, resilient and inquisitive. We will not pay lip service to these ideals but will embed them in our every action. Our students will be encouraged and supported in all endeavours. All members of our community will play a part in developing their sense of self belief. We will explore every opportunity to give students responsibility within the school and develop a sense of personal responsibility for the local community. All students will engage in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme during KS4 and will build toward this through curricular, cross curricular and enrichment hour activities.

V7. An Island school for Island families that gives parents a real educational choice for their children.

The Island Free School will offer an educational model which is open to all and offers a more attractive choice to parents in the state sector; we will actively promote parent governor posts.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The trust's objectives are set out in its Articles of Association. This is to establish, maintain, manage and develop an academy trust offering a broad and balanced curriculum, for the benefit of public education in the United Kingdom.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the trust has adopted a Funding Agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the academy trust.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Significant activities

The activities of the charitable company continue to be wholly in relation to The Island Free School, a secondary school on the Isle of Wight

The School believes in the following principles, referred to as ACE;

Achievement – Realised through recognising the individual needs of every learner.

Community – Embracing and utilising the local community for the benefit of all learners and building partnerships to support teaching and learning.

Enjoyment – A commitment to innovative practice and the utilisation of technology to develop enthusiasm for learning.

These underpin the school's progress towards its Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).

Public benefit

The Governors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The Island Free School was born from the local community, and maintains strong links within and beyond that community thanks to innovative curricular and extra-curricular initiatives and activities. Our utmost priority in terms of public benefit is to provide a high quality education for our pupils.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The school received a 'good with outstanding features' grade from Ofsted in its first full inspection held in 2017. Our second inspection took place in June 2023. This was an ungraded inspection and the school remains Good.

The School continues to be oversubscribed in all year groups. In the latest application window (October 2024) there were 279 applications, including 198 first choice applications for 125 places at the school.

The School was opened in response to significant academic underperformance within the Local Authority that has seen the Island at the bottom of GCSE league tables for several years, and well behind national averages for several decades. Analysis of local data, coupled with personal experience of teachers in the proposer group, highlighted the following areas as significantly below national averages. These have formed key targets for our school:

1. Serious underperformance in English, which has had widespread impact across all subjects.
2. Significant underperformance for FSM and PP pupils whose performance is well below national averages.
3. Poor attendance at secondary level with high levels of Persistent Absenteeism.
4. Low levels of extra-curricular engagement exacerbated by travel restrictions especially for the more vulnerable pupils.
5. Large anonymous student bodies in which individual needs are not being met with poor parental engagement.
6. Low staff morale.

Key performance indicators

In developing the vision statement of The Island Free School we have targeted these specific areas and formed Key performance targets to judge the effectiveness of provision against these.

Surveys

As a school we are keen to gather the thoughts of all stakeholders in our school. Parents are asked to complete a well-being survey each term as part of their parent mentor meetings.

Results

Our most recent set of GCSE results were very positive. The latest set of exam based results, August 2024, showed pupils achieving above Island and National averages in a majority of subjects with a progress 8 measure of +0.25 indicating that our pupils are making progress that is well above national average. Pupils have performed above local and national averages in all key performance indicators in all 5 year groups

Cohort and subject analysis

Across all subjects, average progress is currently in-line with our aspirational targets. Progress in all subjects is well above national expectations.

Gender gap

There is no significant gender gap. Attainment of boys and girls differ by a sub-level at most.

SEN, FSM and Pupil Premium

SEN, FSM and Pupil Premium pupils are making progress that is broadly in line with main cohort, differing by up to a point at most. In many cases, progress is in line with that of Non PP, SEN and FSM peers (locally and nationally).

Pupil Premium pupils have performed in line with national averages at GCSE level.

Ability

High, mid and low attainers (based on average KS2) perform similarly well in most subjects.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Teachers and CPD

In school CPD has been reactive to the needs of staff as opposed to a pre-set programme, responding to the outcome of observations and performance management. Moving forward a more rigorous CPD programme will be in place alongside the extended 2 year Early Careers Teacher programme (ECT) that was rolled out in September 2021. The Internal CPD Offer during 23/24 has focused on progression, not promotion and allowed staff to pursue interests outside of their normal role. Feedback on CPD within the staff survey has been overwhelmingly positive.

Attendance

Our attendance target for the year 23/24 was 93% with an aspirational target of 94%.

The school achieved an overall attendance of 92.5%

Activities – Part of our Ethos

There was a multitude of trips, visits and performances in the 23/24 Academic year, with a majority of pupils throughout the school experiencing at least one overseas visit during their time at TIFS. Sports fixtures, music and drama productions and Ethos Trips were all well attended by pupils from all cohorts, along with those events that underpin the ethos of the school such as Sports day, the Bonnie Challenge, Speech day and the Summer Show.

Going concern

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

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial review

In the period covered by this report the Governors report an in- year revenue surplus of £73,584 (2023: £76,065). This is calculated by removing the fixed asset fund and local government pension scheme costs and movement. See the calculation below:

2023/24 net income and expenditure	(£128,722)
Adjustments for:	
Remove Capital grant income	(£14,471)
Less FRS 102 pension costs	(£66,000)
Add back depreciation	£350,198
Contributions from revenue to capital	(£67,421)
Revenue surplus	£73,584

During the year ended 31 August 2024, The Island Community School has received restricted income of £4,538,622 (2023: £4,247,868) comprising:

- General Annual Grant (GAG)
- Pupil Premium Funding
- Capital Grants (DFC)
- Mainstream funding grant
- Local Authority Grants
- Covid grants including national tutoring grant and recovery premium grant

Further monies generated by The Island Free School was an income of unrestricted funds £358,380 (2023: £336,408)

- Catering Income
- Parental Contributions
- Lettings
- Other Income

The uncertainty in Governmental changes taking place following the submission of budgets places strain on future financial security. The agreement of Government to uphold the increase in Teachers salaries places additional pressure on finances within the school in order to maintain the rigorous standards which we operate by. Without the addition of supplementary funding to support the changes, this could impact the school's ability to provide a balanced budget in the future.

Reserves policy

The Island Free School aims to focus annual income towards current teaching and learning, whilst keeping a reserve to ensure the smooth transition from year to year and to meet any additional curriculum needs.

The school was opened under a Standards Agenda, which meant that the standard of teaching would need to be excellent. Central to this was the decision to maintain smaller class sizes than the national expectation of 30 per class. Whilst this leads to lower than average teacher/pupil ratios, we believe this is central to our current success at GCSE. Class size consists of 25 pupils.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

On a commercial level, the school would aspire to a level of reserves equal to three months operating costs, which would amount to some £900,000 of reserves, which we believe would be sufficient to enable the school to absorb an unexpected event. Current reserves are in excess of this figure despite the continued challenges placed upon school budgets at a national level. The excess reserves in place will provide for extensive repairs, replacement of goods and development on the school site and at the Rew Valley Sports Centre. Given that the school continues to be oversubscribed in all years we remain confident that the reserves will be maintained.

Total reserves at the year end is £13,077,679 (2023: £13,272,401). The current level of reserves (total funds less the amount held in the fixed assets and restricted pension funds) is £1,207,670 (2023: £1,134,086).

The current level of restricted fixed asset fund is £11,870,009 (2023: £12,138,315). The fund has grown with the new build and can only be realised by disposing of the tangible fixed assets.

The current level of the pension reserve is £Nil (2023: £Nil). This fund is in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme and non-teaching staff, and is largely outside of the control of the governors. The asset position this year has been restricted, see note 16 for further information.

Investment policy

The Island Free School, by nature of the fact that it holds cash balances, has responsibilities and powers to make investment decisions. The aim of the investment policy is to ensure that funds, which the school does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure, are invested in such a way as to maximise the schools income but without risk.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Governors monitor a risk register having conducted risk assessments. The risk register reflects on-going and future concerns and mitigations.

The Head Teacher keeps a list of risks and keeps the governors updated should any issues arise. These are then dealt with on a case to case basis.

The principal risks for the Academy as they stand on 31 August 2024 are:

- Reserves in place to help with the scope of change in the LGPS and changes per year
- Financial reliance on government funding
- Uncertainty around energy costs
- Retention and recruitment of staff
- Ensuring the building and school site remains maintained and complies with regulations in the coming years. The school is relatively new and in good order currently.
- The ongoing failure of the Local Authority and Education Funding Agency to finalise the signing of the Lease for the Rew Valley sports facilities

The Governors are fully aware of their responsibilities to ensure that the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and compliant with the relevant regulations.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Fundraising

The School/pupils raise money for local or national charities, the pupils vote for the charities they wish to support in an academic year, which is supported by Senior Leadership. Publicity for fund raising events is measured and is restricted to students at the school and their family members.

For trips that occur during the school day, parents are requested to make a voluntary donation towards the costs of the trip. Parents are made aware that there is no obligation to contribute and no student will be omitted from the trip if their parents do not contribute, but the trip may not take place if sufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming. Voluntary donations towards trips are requested through letters to parents ensuring they are not made to feel pressurised into paying, as it is voluntary and not compulsory. Reminder letters are not issued for any donation requests

The Trust does not work with any third party commercial participators or professional fundraisers to raise funds. There have been no fundraising complaints during 2023/24.

Fund raising projects for the school are managed through the school and other communications with parents.

Plans for future periods

The school currently has 625 pupils at 31 August 2024. Excellent progress has been made in most academic and pastoral areas with positive feedback from pupil and parent surveys and school inspector visits. Progress and attainment in Languages has been below the standard expected in the school. Each of the subjects has been supported throughout the school year and improvements have been made. The reporting system introduced in 2024, using the GCSE grading system has provided clear data and improved forecasting.

The programme of events and activities to support PP pupils during holiday times, with a focus on reading and aspiration, has been rolled out and is proving both effective and popular with pupils. The Rew Valley Sports complex is now managed by the school which lets these facilities out for community use and more development of this site is anticipated in future years.

The Admissions Policy for the 24/25 cohort has been updated to replace the Music Specialism of the school with that of Performing Arts, to enable a wider focus. Communications Studies has been introduced into the curriculum and the school magazine has been fully digitalised, allowing pupils to experience film and technologies associated with production.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy and its trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

Auditor

In so far as the governors are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Moore (South) LLP be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of governors, as the company directors, on 5th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr G J Peace
Chair of Governors



ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headmaster, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management, in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Island Community School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of governors any material weakness or breakdown in internal control. As Governors, we have reviewed and taken into account the guidance in the DfE's Academy Trust Handbook.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The board of governors has formally met 11 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body and sub committees was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr S Boyd (Accounting Officer and Head Teacher)	11	11
Mr G J Peace (Chair of Governors)	6	11
Mrs S McLoughlin	9	11
Mrs R Lawson	6	11
Mr R Bagshawe	8	11
Mr N May	9	11
Mr M Davies	10	11

During the 2023/24 accounting period the board is unchanged. The board has a diverse range of skills including finance, education, business, cyber security and management. Governors are linked to committees and their senior leaders in order to maintain focus and monitor improvement plans effectively. The NGA's Skills Audit template is used annually to inform the board of the breadth of skills covered and to identify training needs. This will be compiled during November. All Governors are expected to complete safeguarding training and the NGA Learning Link can be accessed by all Governors for further training needs.

The Governing Body has received termly updates from all relevant senior leaders on all key performance indicators, with clear and focused data, enabling Governors to ask questions and challenge those presenting. Information is shared via a secure Google Drive Folder. Strategic Development Plans are shared at each committee and outcomes monitored and followed up at future meetings. Governors also regularly compare data with other schools, both locally and nationally, to monitor performance, outcomes and attendance. The Governing Body continues to support the Head teacher and the school in improving outcomes for pupils and maintaining the seven visions and the ethos of the school.

Ofsted carried out an ungraded inspection in June 2023 and the school remains Good. Two recommendations were made and Governors have monitored the implementation of plans to address these areas.

Conflicts of interest

We ask that the Island Free School Governors declare their interests, or any possible conflict of interest in connection with their role in the school. A declaration of interests/pecuniary interests form is provided for this purpose and the Register of Interests is published on the website and updated annually or sooner, should any changes occur. Governors are requested to declare any interest at the earliest opportunity and must not be involved in decisions that are directly connected with that interest and should withdraw from discussions that relate to that interest. Decisions taken where there is an identified conflict will be made by vote, when the interested party has withdrawn. The Governing Body Policy, published on our website details this fully.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Governance reviews

During this accounting period, the Governing Body has carried out an assessment of its effectiveness using the NGA's 20 Questions and The Right People Around the Table. All areas scored satisfactorily and following this exercise a Chair's Appraisal was conducted. This will be repeated in the 24/25 year.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer the head teacher of The Island Free School is responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. He understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The head teacher considers how the School's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the Governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Headteacher and CFO keep the board regularly apprised on the condition and maintenance of the Trust's land and buildings. Although the building is now 8 years old, it continues to be in a good state of repair and the outside areas well kept. The building is well maintained and complies with all relevant regulations. Capital spending required on the estate is discussed and approved at the Finance Committee meetings.

The Governors of The Island Free School and the Accounting Officer are committed to achieving Best Value in all the decisions we make. We take account of the principles of Best Value in seeking to secure continuous improvement in the Academy and have delivered improved value for money by:

- Regularly reviewing the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- Monitor outcomes and comparing performance especially in regard to the performance of Pupil Premium pupils;
- Consulting appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made;
- Promoting fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way though it should be noted that in ensuring best value we must take into account the fact that we are based on an island and therefore we have to factor in delivery costs that are often much higher than those on the mainland.

We seek to ensure that the Academy is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

We will submit our best value statement with the annual budget plan.

The budget plan and the best value statement will be monitored with the school improvement plan in order to assess progress.

We will seek to achieve Best Value by focusing on the following activities this year:

The planning, delivery and monitoring of the curriculum by ensuring for example:

- Evaluating changes to both the KS3 and KS4 curriculum to ensure outstanding provision and value for money.
- Meeting or exceeding challenging pupil progress targets across the school, through the effective use of Pupil Premium funding.
- Robust self-evaluation, reported in the Self Evaluation Form (SEF), with a particular focus on the quality of teaching and learning and on pupil progress.
- Improving the staff internal CPD offer.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The care, guidance and support of pupils by, for example:

- Reviewing and modifying the school's Personal, Social and Health education programme.
- Ensuring that all children are valued as individuals and that safeguarding procedures are fully in place.
- Ensuring relevant health and safety and inclusion policies are in place.
- Tracking pupil progress and target setting using the school, LA and national data.
- Further developing the role of pupil leadership to provide leadership opportunities for young people.
- Ensuring pupils are equipped with the knowledge to keep themselves safe online.

Staffing by, for example:

- Reviewing TLR and other payments to ensure they are fit for purpose;
- Reviewing Appraisal arrangements to ensure that targets are rigorous and that our performance related pay policy ensures the high quality of teaching in the school is maintained;
- Reducing bureaucracy where possible;
- Maintaining an annual refurbishment programme as detailed by the site team;

Resources by, for example:

- Allocating resources as identified in School Strategic Development Plan addressing the priorities identified;
- Obtaining competitive quotations for goods and services again bearing in mind our island location.

Academy leadership and management by, for example:

- Putting in place an induction programme for all new teaching staff and ensuring all staff are fully supported in delivering their roles and thereby reducing recruitment costs;
- Encouraging applications for appropriate leadership courses from suitable staff;
- Further developing academy-based continuing professional development;
- Using Trust status to provide professional development opportunities for leaders;
- Ensure newly qualified teachers are fully supported to develop their practice.

Financial management by, for example:

- Providing professional development for all leadership roles;
- Maintaining a careful oversight on expenditure at regular meetings between the Headmaster and Finance officer;
- Maximising income from lettings.
- Building Reserves to enable funding of likely significant repair/refurbishment to the Rew Valley Sports facilities once the lease is finalised.

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial governance and oversight of the school

The Academy Trust has established a Full Governing Body (FGB) and four subcommittees, one of which is the Leadership, Management & Finance (LM&F) committee. This latter subcommittee assure school income and expenditure, and especially that spending represents value for money. It also includes audit and risk within its terms of reference. The Finance sub committee has met 3 times during this academic year. Additionally, there is a Finance Update listed on every Agenda and the Headmaster and Link Finance Governor provides this information.

The LM&F subcommittee are responsible for financial governance and have met at least once each term in the academic year. They have ensured that a sound system of financial control is in place, with clear levels of delegated financial authority designated. The link governor for this subcommittee regularly reviews the financial position of the school and the operation of its procedures during the year. The LM&F subcommittee have monitored the financial position of the school and challenged the senior leadership team where appropriate.

The LM&F subcommittee also reviewed and approved the annual budget for 2024/25 in July, checking that the budget allowed for any pay increases that may be announced by Government whilst ensuring the school can live within its means.

The school benchmarks its spending using tools available online as well as against other schools through annual reports, local network meetings, and other documents available in the public domain.

Maximising income generation at the school

The school has very limited outdoor space, which usually provides an opportunity to generate income. The school must therefore focus on generating income from the sports facilities at Rew Valley Sports Centre.

We have taken responsibility for these sports facilities that make up part of our permanent site and we maximise the public use of these in the evenings.

Reviewing controls and managing risks at the school

Throughout the academic year, financial controls have been reviewed to ensure they meet best practice. The Governing Body has overseen a number of policies including the control and risk aspect of the school, particularly around the financial risks to the school. The school's risk management framework and governance structure provides a mechanism for proactively identifying and addressing the key risks to the achievement of the school's strategic objectives. It delivers comprehensive monitoring, control and on going management of the major risks to which the school is exposed, so as to ensure the security of school, and therefore taxpayer funds. The school recognises that it's ability to properly identify, measure, monitor and report risk is critical to its sustainable financial security and its ability to provide value and fair outcomes to its pupils. The Risk Register is reviewed on an annual basis, or sooner if changes are required.

The Chair of Governors and Chair of Leadership, Management and Finance Committee have met with those responsible for the school finances to discuss budgets and scrutinise these along with the financial controls in place at the school. All have been refined throughout the year based on spending patterns, experiences and best practice in other schools.

The school has a dedicated and qualified CFO. In December 2021, the Governing Body appointed new Internal Auditors. From three proposals presented, Portsmouth City Council was appointed and has carried out three audits to date.

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 risk to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Island Community School for the period of 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of the approval of the annual report and accounts.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Capacity to handle risk

The board of governors 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 governors is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period of 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of the approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Governors.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of governors;
- Regular reviews by the staff, finance and leadership 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;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

Internal audit

The Board of Governors buy in an internal audit function from Portsmouth City Council. The appointment was made in December 2021. This proposal was the most cost effective and appropriate to our requirements and of the three considered, in the closest proximity with local knowledge. A programme of agreed work took place in July 2024 and Governors received the report on the findings. There were no significant matters to address. The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Financial Governance Processes;
- School Trips;
- Income collection and banking;
- Catering.

On an annual basis the auditor will provide a report to the Governing Body through the Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the boards' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor will prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and year on year progress. There has been one visit during the 2023/24 accounting period and this covered the schedule of work as planned. Some remedial action included – Chair should receive accounts on a regular basis, bank reconciliations should be carried out promptly and there should be a risk management strategy for the use of school vehicles. All of these actions will be addressed for the 24/25 financial year.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Review of effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implication of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance Committee and plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

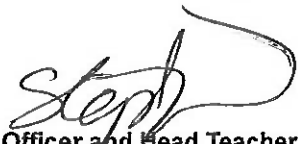
Conclusion

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

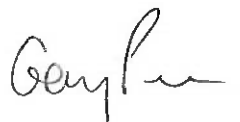
Plan for improvement

Approved by order of the board of governors on 05 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Boyd
Accounting Officer and Head Teacher



Mr G J Peace
Chair of Governors



**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

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

I confirm that following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the board of governors and the ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of governors and ESFA.

Financial issues

- Approval of related party transactions not being evidenced.

In total this transaction amounts to £2,277.



**Mr S Boyd
Accounting Officer**

05 December 2024

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the governors are required to:

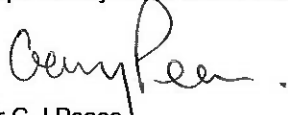
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of governors on 05 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr G J Peace
Chair of Governors

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The governors are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes the governors' report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) the governance statement and the statement of regularity, propriety and compliance. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the governors' report (including the incorporated strategic report and directors' report) for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the strategic report and the directors report, included within the governors report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or directors' report, included within the governors report.

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

Responsibilities of governors

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the accounts due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Academy Trust.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Our approach was as follows:

- The engagement partner selected staff for the audit, led by persons who it was deemed had sufficient experience and who had the required competence and skills to be able to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We assessed the risk of irregularities as part of our audit planning, and ongoing review, including those due to fraud, management override was identified as a significant fraud risk. This is due to the ability to bypass controls through inappropriate expenditure and accounting policies adopted.
- Completeness of income was identified as a significant risk to the audit, as grant income may not be recognised in accordance with the SORP.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and we considered the most significant to be Academies Accounts Direction, the Charity SORP, the Companies Act 2006, UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council and UK Taxation legislation. We considered how the Academy Trust complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Consideration was also made of the internal controls in place to mitigate the identified risks.
- We assessed the control environment, documenting the systems, controls and processes adopted. The audit approach incorporated a combination of controls where appropriate, analytical review and substantive procedures involving tests of transactions and balances. Any irregularities noted were discussed with management and additional corroborative evidence was obtained as required.

To address the risk of fraud through management override we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify any unusual transactions;
- tested items of expenditure to ensure that they were valid and appropriate;
- confirmed monthly management accounts were reviewed by the board;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- reviewed the disclosures within the accounts to ensure they meet the requirements of the accounting standards and relevant legislation.

In response to the risk of irregularities with regards to completeness of income we:

- completed analytical work, to include comparison with prior periods;
- agreed a sample of documentation to confirm that relevant entries were reflected in the accounting records and allocated to the correct period and
- reviewed minutes of governors meetings and confirmed income sources mentioned were included correctly within the accounts.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Esme Shakeshaft (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore (South) LLP**

17th Dec 2024
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**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

9 St Johns Place
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1LH

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS
FUNDING AGENCY**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Island Community School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Island Community School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Island Community School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated July 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration of the Accounting Officer's statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance;
- Analytical procedures on the general activities of the Academy Trust;
- A Review of Minutes of Committee and Board meetings, which may be relevant;
- Considerations of discussions with key personnel, including Governors;
- Substantive testing of individual transactions

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS
FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Conclusion

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

During the course of our work we identified the school has entered into a transaction with a related party which had not followed the schools internal policies and procedures, nor had it been reported on the ESFA related party portal. In addition, we were unable to obtain formal evidence of Governor approval prior to this transaction taking place. The total transaction amounted to £2,277.

Moore South LLP

Reporting Accountant

Moore (South) LLP
9 St Johns Place
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1LH

Dated: *17th Dec 2024*

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	14,471	43,142
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	3	-	4,524,151	4,524,151	4,204,726
Other trading activities	4	358,380	-	358,380	336,408
Total		358,380	4,524,151	4,897,002	4,584,276
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	6	400,020	4,275,506	5,025,724	4,737,090
Total	5	400,020	4,275,506	5,025,724	4,737,090
Net income/(expenditure)		(41,640)	248,645	(128,722)	(152,814)
Transfers between funds	14	41,640	(109,061)	67,421	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16	-	102,000	102,000	421,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	16	-	(168,000)	(168,000)	(437,000)
Net movement in funds		-	73,584	(194,722)	(168,814)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	1,134,086	12,138,315	13,272,401
Total funds carried forward		-	1,207,670	13,077,679	13,272,401

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	43,142	43,142
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	3	-	4,204,726	-	4,204,726
Other trading activities	4	336,408	-	-	336,408
Total		336,408	4,204,726	43,142	4,584,276
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	6	381,687	4,012,239	343,164	4,737,090
Total	5	381,687	4,012,239	343,164	4,737,090
Net income/(expenditure)		(45,279)	192,487	(300,022)	(152,814)
Transfers between funds	14	45,279	(137,422)	92,143	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16	-	421,000	-	421,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	16	-	(437,000)	-	(437,000)
Net movement in funds		-	39,065	(207,879)	(168,814)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	1,095,021	12,346,194	13,441,215
Total funds carried forward		-	1,134,086	12,138,315	13,272,401

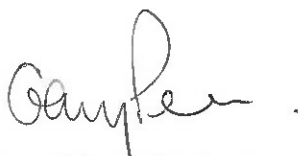
**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		11,826,866		12,109,644
Current assets					
Debtors	11	159,881		133,381	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,348,730		1,284,032	
		1,508,611		1,417,413	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(257,798)		(254,656)	
Net current assets			1,250,813		1,162,757
Net assets excluding pension asset			13,077,679		13,272,401
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	16		-		-
Total net assets			13,077,679		13,272,401
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	14				
- Fixed asset funds			11,870,009		12,138,315
- Restricted income funds			1,207,670		1,134,086
Total restricted funds			13,077,679		13,272,401
Unrestricted income funds	14		-		-
Total funds			13,077,679		13,272,401

The accounts on pages 26 to 47 were approved by the governors and authorised for issue on 05 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mr G J Peace
Chair of Governors



Company registration number 08265245 (England and Wales)

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	17		117,647		212,214
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		14,471		43,142	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(67,420)		(106,614)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(52,949)		(63,472)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			64,698		148,742
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,284,032		1,135,290
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,348,730		1,284,032

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1 Accounting policies

Island Community School is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the governors' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants receivable

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets for long term use are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Assets in excess of £1,000 are capitalised.

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

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over their expected useful life.

The assets are written down on a straight line method over it's expected useful life, the expected useful life of each class asset is noted below.

Land and buildings	50 years
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5-10 years

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leasing commitments

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

1.8 Taxation

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

1.9 Pensions benefits

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

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

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.10 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The only financial instruments held by the school are debtors and creditors. These are categorised as "basic" in accordance with Section 11 of FRS 102 and are initially recorded at transaction price. These are subsequently measured at their transaction price less any impairment.

1.12 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 16, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

There are no critical errors of judgement.

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	14,471	14,471	43,142

3 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	3,924,144	3,924,144	3,714,992
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	151,888	151,888	144,547
- Teachers pay grant	-	68,058	68,058	-
- Teachers pension grant	-	35,108	35,108	-
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	109,119
- Mainstream grant	-	132,708	132,708	55,295
- Others	-	(2,400)	(2,400)	10,414
	-	4,309,506	4,309,506	4,034,367
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	173,152	173,152	115,837
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	41,493	41,493	54,522
Total funding	-	4,524,151	4,524,151	4,204,726

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Hire of facilities	12,713	-	12,713	11,830
Catering income	178,407	-	178,407	166,041
Trips and visit income	164,417	-	164,417	155,465
Other income	2,843	-	2,843	3,072
	358,380	-	358,380	336,408

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Premises & equipment £	Other costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,712,301	350,198	522,178	3,584,677	3,255,711
- Allocated support costs	818,682	37,533	584,832	1,441,047	1,481,379
	<u>3,530,983</u>	<u>387,731</u>	<u>1,107,010</u>	<u>5,025,724</u>	<u>4,737,090</u>
Total expenditure	<u>3,530,983</u>	<u>387,731</u>	<u>1,107,010</u>	<u>5,025,724</u>	<u>4,737,090</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	13,100	12,500
- Other services	4,300	4,245
Operating lease rentals	6,107	12,940
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>350,198</u>	<u>343,164</u>

6 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs - educational operations	185,816	3,398,861	3,584,677	3,255,711
Support costs - educational operations	<u>214,204</u>	<u>1,226,843</u>	<u>1,441,047</u>	<u>1,481,379</u>
	<u>400,020</u>	<u>4,625,704</u>	<u>5,025,724</u>	<u>4,737,090</u>

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6 Charitable activities (Continued)

Analysis of costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	2,695,379	2,404,772
Staff development	16,922	16,146
Depreciation	350,198	343,164
Educational supplies and services	336,362	314,662
Other direct costs	185,816	176,967
	<u>3,584,677</u>	<u>3,255,711</u>
Support costs		
Support staff costs	842,682	879,035
Recruitment and support	14,971	18,758
Maintenance of premises and equipment	37,533	50,548
Cleaning	64,181	65,661
Energy costs	89,925	75,780
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	59,083	44,351
Insurance	30,865	25,620
Catering	199,213	185,518
Finance costs	(24,000)	(1,000)
Other support costs	93,502	106,551
Governance costs	33,092	30,557
	<u>1,441,047</u>	<u>1,481,379</u>

7 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,711,626	2,511,911
Social security costs	259,293	219,652
Pension costs	567,142	552,244
	<u>3,538,061</u>	<u>3,283,807</u>
Staff costs - employees	3,538,061	3,283,807
Staff development and other staff costs	16,922	16,146
Total staff expenditure	<u>3,554,983</u>	<u>3,299,953</u>

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

7 Staff (Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	42	41
Administration and support	34	35
Management	7	6
	<u>83</u>	<u>82</u>

Higher paid staff

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

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

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £509,217 (2023, £418,934).

8 Governors' remuneration and expenses

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

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

The value of Governor's remuneration was as follows:-

Mr S Boyd - Head Teacher and Accounting Officer - Salary £95,001 - £100,000 (2023- £90,001 - £95,000); Employers Pension £25,001 - £30,000 (2023 - £20,001 - £25,000).

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

9 Governors' and officers' insurance

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

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	13,573,517	778,157	811,887	15,163,561
Additions	-	50,668	16,752	67,420
At 31 August 2024	13,573,517	828,825	828,639	15,230,981
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	1,621,697	670,844	761,376	3,053,917
Charge for the year	271,315	54,996	23,887	350,198
At 31 August 2024	1,893,012	725,840	785,263	3,404,115
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	11,680,505	102,985	43,376	11,826,866
At 31 August 2023	11,951,820	107,313	50,511	12,109,644

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	1,681	1,042
VAT recoverable	74,525	63,447
Prepayments and accrued income	83,675	68,892
	159,881	133,381

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	45,614	64,949
Other taxation and social security	58,584	59,941
Other creditors	54,393	44,446
Accruals and deferred income	99,207	85,320
	257,798	254,656

ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13	Deferred income	2024	2023
		£	£
	Deferred income is included within:		
	Creditors due within one year	41,328	35,522
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 1 September 2023	35,522	-
	Released from previous years	(35,522)	-
	Amounts deferred in the year	41,328	35,522
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 31 August 2024	41,328	35,522
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income relates to income received in the year in advance of the following year:

Trips	£17,275
Rates grant	£22,697
Other	£1,356

14	Funds	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
	Restricted general funds					
	General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,009,698	3,924,144	(3,691,807)	(109,061)	1,132,974
	Pupil premium	-	151,888	(151,888)	-	-
	Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	41,493	(41,493)	-	-
	Other DfE/ESFA grants	124,388	233,474	(283,166)	-	74,696
	Other government grants	-	173,152	(173,152)	-	-
	Pension reserve	-	-	66,000	(66,000)	-
		<u>1,134,086</u>	<u>4,524,151</u>	<u>(4,275,506)</u>	<u>(175,061)</u>	<u>1,207,670</u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Restricted fixed asset funds					
	DfE group capital grants	12,138,315	14,471	(350,198)	67,421	11,870,009
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Total restricted funds	<u>13,272,401</u>	<u>4,538,622</u>	<u>(4,625,704)</u>	<u>(107,640)</u>	<u>13,077,679</u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds					
	General funds	-	358,380	(400,020)	41,640	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Total funds	<u>13,272,401</u>	<u>4,897,002</u>	<u>(5,025,724)</u>	<u>(66,000)</u>	<u>13,077,679</u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

14 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted General Funds are made up of the General Annual Grant received, to be spent on education within the academy, and other related DfE or other authority grants.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds relate to the capital funding received for the construction of the new academy building, educational equipment and fixtures and fitting.

Unrestricted Funds are all other sources of income generated by the academy through trading, catering, transport, additional trips or fundraising and to which no restrictions apply regarding the way they are spent.

The pension reserve reflects the projected deficit on the school's element of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	955,987	3,714,992	(3,523,859)	(137,422)	1,009,698
Pupil premium	-	144,547	(144,547)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	54,522	(54,522)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	102,034	174,828	(152,474)	-	124,388
Other government grants	-	115,837	(115,837)	-	-
Pension reserve	37,000	-	(21,000)	(16,000)	-
	<u>1,095,021</u>	<u>4,204,726</u>	<u>(4,012,239)</u>	<u>(153,422)</u>	<u>1,134,086</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	<u>12,346,194</u>	<u>43,142</u>	<u>(343,164)</u>	<u>92,143</u>	<u>12,138,315</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>13,441,215</u>	<u>4,247,868</u>	<u>(4,355,403)</u>	<u>(61,279)</u>	<u>13,272,401</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>-</u>	<u>336,408</u>	<u>(381,687)</u>	<u>45,279</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>13,441,215</u>	<u>4,584,276</u>	<u>(4,737,090)</u>	<u>(16,000)</u>	<u>13,272,401</u>

**ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,826,866	11,826,866
Current assets	-	1,465,468	43,143	1,508,611
Current liabilities	-	(257,798)	-	(257,798)
Total net assets	-	1,207,670	11,870,009	13,077,679
				</

16 Pension and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £54,393 (2023- £44,446) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

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.

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16 Pension and similar obligations

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Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million. The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £464,437 (2023: £387,397).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.8% for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £143,000.

The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2024 were £186,000 (2023: £186,000), of which employers contributions totalled £143,000 (2023: £143,000). No lump sum contributions have been paid in either 2024 or 2023. Contribution rates set are derived from the March 2022 valuation. Total employee contributions were £43,000 (2023: £43,000).

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

The pension costs paid to the LGPS in the period amounted to £143,547 (2023: £142,848).

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Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	143,000	143,000
Employees' contributions	43,000	43,000
Total contributions	186,000	186,000
Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.3	21.4
- Females	24.0	24.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.9	21.0
- Females	25.4	25.4

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

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	37	32
Mortality assumption + 1 year	40	33
CPI rate + 0.1%	38	33

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2024	2023
	£	£
Scheme assets	1,611,000	1,260,000
Scheme obligations	(1,006,000)	(823,000)
Effects of changes in amount of surplus deemed irrecoverable brought forward	(437,000)	-
Effects of changes in amount of surplus deemed irrecoverable during the year	(168,000)	(437,000)
Net asset	-	-

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(Continued)

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

	2024	2023
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	998,800	907,200
Bonds	354,400	201,600
Cash	193,300	88,200
Property	64,500	63,000
Total market value of assets	<u>1,611,000</u>	<u>1,260,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £168,000 (2023: £26,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current service cost	(42,000)	22,000
Interest income	(70,000)	(48,000)
Interest cost	46,000	47,000
Total operating charge	<u>(66,000)</u>	<u>21,000</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2024
	£
At 1 September 2023	823,000
Current service cost	101,000
Interest cost	46,000
Employee contributions	43,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	601,000
Benefits paid	(3,000)
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,611,000</u>

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

	2024
	£
At 1 September 2023	1,260,000
Interest income	70,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	98,000
Employer contributions	143,000
Employee contributions	43,000
Benefits paid	(3,000)
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,611,000</u>

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Local Government Pension Scheme funding valuations are completed every three years with the latest triennial valuation related to the period ended 31 March 2022. In the years succeeding this valuation, the accounting valuation methodology is adopted. The aim of the funding valuation is to ensure that each employer's share of the Fund's assets alongside future expected investment returns and contributions will be sufficient to meet future benefit payments from the Fund. The purpose of an accounting valuation, as conducted in the current and prior year, is to facilitate a consistent comparison of pension positions between employers. An accounting valuation has no effect on the cash contributions that will be certified for an employer.

In conducting an accounting valuation, actuaries have used the projected unit credit method of valuation as required by FRS 102 accounting standards. Results have been projected forward from the latest 2022 funding valuation using approximate roll forward methods to the accounting date of 31 August 2024. Allowances are made for changes in financial and demographic assumptions, benefit accrual, actual pension increases and estimated cashflows over the period. Allowances are also made for bulk transfers, business combinations and settlements where applicable.

Actuaries cannot assess the accuracy of roll forward estimates without another full funding valuation being undertaken. This is due to take place in respect of the period ending 31 March 2025 with results therefore impacting the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2026.

Financial and demographic assumptions are detailed below and are assessed specifically to the accounting date of 31 August 2024. As at the accounting date, the net discount rate (discount rate net of inflation) has decreased compared to the prior year from 5.20% to 5.00%. Likewise, the rate of CPI has fallen from 2.95% to 2.65%.

Under FRS 102, an entity shall recognise a plan surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities requiring them to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. As such, the trustees deem it prudent not to recognise a defined benefit plan asset at the year end on the basis that the extent of future contributions cannot be reliably quantified.

17 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(128,722)	(152,814)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(14,471)	(43,142)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	16	(42,000)	22,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	16	(24,000)	(1,000)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		350,198	343,164
(Increase) in debtors		(26,500)	(11,475)
Increase in creditors		3,142	55,481
Net cash provided by operating activities		117,647	212,214

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18 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023	Cash flows	31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash	1,284,032	64,698	1,348,730

19 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	29,640	30,046
Amounts due in two and five years	80,103	109,743
	<u>109,743</u>	<u>139,789</u>

Lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the year.

20 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which governors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Financial Handbook, including notifying the EFSA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

There were no amounts paid to governors for services or provisions of goods during the period, except for in Note 9 (2023 - Nil).

A Governor's spouse (Mrs J Boyd) is employed by the school as a teacher. During the year £53,483 (2023 - £47,572) was paid in respect of remuneration for her teaching role, and £14,405 (2023 - £11,954) was paid by way of employer's pension contributions.

The same Governor's daughter was paid £2,277 by the school for temporary cover.

A Member of the Senior Management Team's spouse (Mrs N Peace) is employed by the school as a teacher. During the year £14,858 (2023 - £41,634) was paid in respect of remuneration for her teaching role, and £3,518 (2023 - £9,859) was paid by way of employer's pension contributions.

A Member of the Senior Management Team's spouse (Mrs N Naude) is employed by the school in an accounting role. During the year £35,299 (2023 - £33,145) was paid in respect of remuneration for her role as Chief Financial Officer, and £6,919 (2023 - £6,496) was paid by way of employer's pension contributions.

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21 Members' liability

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

