

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

APPROVAL COPY

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	T Stout	
	H McKenna	
	J Bell	
	D Tyler	
	S Coull	
	L Lamb	
	K Elliot	
	R Turner	
	S McNaughton	
	H Moore	
	C Ash	(Appointed 1 December 2022)
	S Macrae	(Appointed 1 December 2022)
	I Ross	(Appointed 1 December 2022)
Secretary	G Purvis	
Company number	08942309	
Registered office	Havannah First School Primrose Lane Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE13 9FR	
Independent examiner	Chipchase Nelson 5/6 Kensington Cockton Hill Road Bishop Auckland Co Durham DL14 6HX	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6JG	

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

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GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is an exempt charity as it is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It was incorporated on 17 March 2014 and is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which define its objects and powers. The Trust does not employ any staff at this time, but buys in time from 2 Head Teachers and 1 Trust Administrator and Finance Officer to undertake Trust development and administrative functions.

Trustees/Directors

The Gosforth Schools' Trust Board of Directors is made up of representation from all our partner schools and the local authority. Other seats on the Board are offered to our key partners from the private, public and third party sectors. The trustees are also directors for the purpose of company law.

The trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Name	Representing
Jeremy Bell	Gosforth Central Middle School
Helen McKenna	Broadway East First School
Tim Stout	Gosforth East Middle School
Deborah Tyler	Newcastle City Council
Sarah Hawkins	Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School (resigned 1 December 2022)
Sharon Coull	South Gosforth First School
Leanne Lamb	Gosforth Park First School
Karen Elliot	Chair of the Board
Rebecca Turner	Archibald First School
Stuart McNaughton	Brunton First School
Helen Moore	Regent Farm First School
Caroline Ash	Dinnington First School (appointed 1 December 2022)
Sarah Macrae	Archbishop Runcie Church of England First School (appointed 1 December 2022)
Iain Ross	Grange First School (appointed 1 December 2022)

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the Trust. All of the trustees are members of the Trust and guarantee to contribute £1 each in the event of a winding up.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Internal controls have been implemented in respect of transaction authorisation.

Trustees/directors are briefed on their legal obligation under charity law, the content of the constitution of the charity, the Board/Committee and decision making processes, recent financial performance and future plans. As the Board is made up of representatives from the member schools all trustees have access to the local authority School Governing Body training programme and other external development courses, where applicable, and within the resources of the organisation.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Trust is exposed. They must ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against error and fraud.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The purpose of the Trust is to deepen, extend and build the sustainability of our successful collaborative working so as to expand educational opportunities for our children; raising their aspirations and to drive up standards across all our schools. We will share practice across the schools in the interests of our children and work more effectively with parents, carers, partners and the wider community. This is achieved through an increase in leadership capacity and opportunities within our schools at all levels and seeking opportunities for additional funding streams and financial efficiencies. We will provide a stronger local voice in response to national changes and ensure we retain the unique identities within our local schools.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities they should undertake.

Public benefit

The organisation's aims and achievements are set out within this report. The activities set out in this report have been undertaken to further the organisation's charitable purposes for the public benefit of the community of Gosforth and the surrounding area. The trustees have complied with the duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Trust should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The outcomes and impact of the Trust delivery plan have been regularly reported to the Board members and the Trust Foundation Governors. A number of inter school events have taken place which have added real value to the educational offer from all the schools. Information meetings have been held for Foundation Governors to keep them informed and to develop their role and their potential contribution to the work of the Trust.

The Gosforth Schools' Trust School Council was formed in February 2015 with two pupil representatives from each partner school. They have continued to meet on a termly basis and are generating good ideas to support the aims of the Trust, including a Code of Conduct for everyone involved.

Charitable activities and future developments

The Trust was formally launched to bring together nine first schools, and the two middle schools which form part of the Gosforth Pyramid of schools within the local education authority area of Newcastle City Council.

Through closer collaboration on procurement the schools within the Trust will seek in-year budget savings. Other projects included joint training and curriculum development working groups in specialist subjects such as STEM, IT etc. Work continued on the review of Service Level Agreements and contracts for supplies of goods and services with an aim of achieving economies of scale and cost effectiveness across the schools to allow them to utilise their budgets for the benefit of all the pupils and the local communities the schools support.

The Trust has actively sought and will continue to seek opportunities to establish effective partnerships with organisations from all sectors who share vision and values of the Trust. Activities have taken place throughout the period reflected by these accounts to identify and approach organisations that are able to offer expertise and specialism within a mutually beneficial relationship to maximise the educational opportunities and welfare of our pupils.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review

Incoming resources in the year were £9,000. There was an income fund surplus of £6,245. Reserves at 31 March 2023 total £25,199,314.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trust that unrestricted income funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Trust's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the period.

The trustees/directors will review the level of reserves on an termly basis. This review will encompass the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves required.

Independent Examiner

A resolution proposing that Chipchase Nelson be reappointed as independent examiners will be put to the members.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Gosforth Schools' Trust for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

K Elliot
Chair

Dated: 14 December 2023

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of Gosforth Schools' Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - (i) accounting records are kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) accounts are prepared which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and the methods and principles set out in the Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Kenneth Scott FCA

Chipchase Nelson
Chartered Accountants

5/6 Kensington
Cockton Hill Road
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham
DL14 6HX

Dated: 14 December 2023

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	3	9,000	5,500
Other income	4	-	2,294
Total income and endowments		9,000	7,794
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Charitable activities	5	353,123	354,047
Total resources expended		353,123	354,047
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(344,123)	(346,253)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		25,543,437	25,889,690
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		25,199,314	25,543,437

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the period and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared. All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	25,178,224	25,528,592
Current assets			
Debtors	9	13,335	7,030
Cash at bank and in hand		9,606	9,666
		22,941	16,696
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	1,851	1,851
Net current assets		21,090	14,845
Total assets less current liabilities		25,199,314	25,543,437
Funds			
Unrestricted income funds		21,090	14,845
Unrestricted capital funds		25,178,224	25,528,592
		25,199,314	25,543,437

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:

H McKenna
Trustee

K Elliot
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08942309

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees/directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2 Accounting policies

Company information

Gosforth Schools' Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Havannah First School, Primrose Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE13 9FR.

2.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees' continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charitable company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

2.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Buildings	2% per annum straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

2.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

2.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2.10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives and at the discretion of the Trustees/Directors.

Restricted funds can only be used for the particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restriction arises when specified by a donor or when funds are raised for a particular restricted purpose or purposes.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
School contributions	9,000	5,500
	<u>9,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Salary Contribution	-	2,294
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,294</u>

5 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation and impairment	350,368	350,368
Support costs	1,305	2,229
	<u>351,673</u>	<u>352,597</u>
Governance costs	1,450	1,450
	<u>353,123</u>	<u>354,047</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £1,450 for independent examination fees.

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(Continued)

7 Support costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Other costs	1,305	1,634
Staff costs recharged	-	595
	<u>1,305</u>	<u>2,229</u>

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
SEN Balance	7,470	7,470
Trust Funds	5,865	(440)
	<u>13,335</u>	<u>7,030</u>

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	28,331,536
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2022	2,802,944
Charge for the year	350,368
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,153,312</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,178,224</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>25,528,592</u>

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS' TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	401	401
Accruals and deferred income	1,450	1,450
	<u>1,851</u>	<u>1,851</u>

12 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2023 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
General fund	14,845	-	6,245	21,090
Capital fund	25,528,592	-	(350,368)	25,178,224
	<u>25,543,437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(344,123)</u>	<u>25,199,314</u>

The capital fund represents the written down value of tangible assets held by the Trust.

13 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

14 Analysis of changes in net funds

The company had no debt during the year.

15 Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee. At 31st March 2023 there were 13 members each of whom had undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of winding up.

The company is under the control of the directors as a body and as such is not controlled by any individual.