

The Propeller Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Annual Report and Financial Statements  
Year ended 31 August 2024

Company Registration Number:  
08340120 (England and Wales)

# The Propeller Academy Trust

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# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Members

D Mackay

P Yearling

S Mitchell (appointed 1 July 2024)

P Hutchinson (resigned 20 July 2024)

### Trustees

D Buckley-Golder

J Chadwick

J Edwards

T Hodgson

M Marsh (appointed 1 September 2024)

T Pegler

E Ricks-Neal

C Winch (appointed 16 November 2023)

S Mitchell (resigned 30 June 2024)

### Company Secretary

T Stratton

### Senior Management Team

T Pegler Chief Executive Officer

T Stratton Chief Operations Officer

P Bhagrath Headteacher

S Coneboy Headteacher

L Wilson Headteacher

K Downes Deputy Headteacher

T Gardiner Deputy Headteacher

L Green Deputy Headteacher

C Slatter Deputy Headteacher (resigned 14 April 24)

F Bjornstad Assistant Headteacher

S Colebourne Assistant Headteacher

R Long Assistant Headteacher

H Gordon Assistant Headteacher (appointed 1 April 24)

R Pritchard Assistant Headteacher (appointed 15 April 24)

### Company Name

The Propeller Academy Trust

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

Principal and Registered Office  
Fitzwaryn School  
Denchworth Road  
Wantage  
Oxfordshire  
OX12 9ET

Company Registration Number  
08340120 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor  
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited  
Statutory Auditor  
Highland House  
Mayflower Close  
Chandlers Ford  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire  
SO53 4AR

Bankers  
Lloyds Bank Plc  
8 Ock Street  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 5AP

Solicitors  
Browne Jacobson LLP  
Mowbray House  
Castle Meadow Road  
Nottingham  
NG2 1BJ

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates three special schools in the South Oxfordshire Area. Kingfisher and Fitzwaryn special schools came together to create a formal relationship through the creation of a multi-academy trust in February 2013. Bishopswood School joined the Trust in January 2023. The schools have a combined pupil capacity of 291 and had a number on roll of 308 in the census in May 2024.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of The Propeller Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Propeller Academy Trust.

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

#### Members' Liability

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

#### Trustees' Indemnities

The Trustees have unlimited indemnity insurance purchased by the Trust to cover the liability of the Trustees arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business.

#### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and Funding Agreement:

- up to 10 Trustees, who are appointed by the Members (seven) and Trustees (three) of which up to two are Parent Trustees who are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the Trust's schools if there are no parents at the local committee level;
- of which up to one is a staff member, limited to the role of the Chief Executive Officer (provided that the total number of Trustees who are employees of the Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees).

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period. except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or re-elected.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (continued)

When appointing new Trustees, the Trust will consider the skills and experience of existing Trustees to ensure the Trust has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

In March 2022, the Board appointed Jane Edwards as Chair and John Chadwick as Vice Chair. These appointments fulfil a vital component of a balanced Board to provide support to the executive team in building and developing the Trust provision with an extensive SEN educationalist knowledge. In November 2023, Clare Winch was appointed for her extensive corporate governance and accountancy background and Miranda Marsh, a child psychotherapist, was appointed in September 2024.

### Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of schools within the Trust and a chance to meet staff and pupils and a plan set by the Chair to facilitate knowledge. Induction is informally tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various other organisations as appropriate, such as the NGA and Oxfordshire Governor services.

All Trustees have access to copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees in both company and charity law. Trustees are also members of Governor Hub to access company information in a secure manner.

All Trustees can undertake National Governor Association training and receive regular National Governor Association updates through the membership scheme to which they are enrolled as well as The Key and Oxfordshire training providers.

We have continued our membership of the 'Better Governance' scheme to enhance standards. A skills assessment was completed and directors undertook bespoke individual training through the NGA and Oxfordshire County Council Governor Services.

The same facilities are extended to the Local Governance teams to ensure consistency and understanding across the Trust. In 2022 The Trust underwent full inspection by the NGA to verify its internal Governance arrangements. The Trust was considered strong in all aspects. The report noted "The strategic leadership of the trust is underpinned by a culture which permeates across all levels of governance. No matter how troubled or vulnerable the child is or complex their needs, all pupils at the Propeller Academy Trust can succeed. This shapes the Trust's vision which succinctly states, is 'to extend high quality SEN education to as many children and young people as possible'.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Organisational Structure

The Trust Board meets at least twice each term with an additional annual meeting with the external Auditor to consider and approve the annual report and accounts. The Trust Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Sub Committees of the Trust including the Local Governing Body (LGB) for each constituent school. It receives reports including policies from Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Trust Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are currently five permanent Committees of the Trust as follows:

- Local Governing Body – Kingfisher
- Local Governing Body – Fitzwaryn
- Local Governing Body –Bishopswood
- Pay Committee
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Each Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities delegated to it. The following decisions are reserved to the full Trust Board:

- To consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure.
- To appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair.
- To appoint and/or consider the performance of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- The strategic direction of the Trust as a whole
- Setting general policy
- Approving the annual development plan for the Trust
- Approving the Trust budget
- Approving the annual statutory accounts
- Ensuring the monitoring of progress against objectives through data and external verification and Local Governing Body activity
- Decisions about the direction of individual schools within the Trust in conjunction with the Local Governing Body
- Any major capital expenditure and the use of reserves
- Health and Safety policy
- Safeguarding policy

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Organisational Structure (continued)

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the constituent schools to the Chief Executive Officer and the respective Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Governors. SLT teams include the Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers and the Chief Operations Officer of the Trust as a minimum. SLTs implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and Governors and report back to them on performance.

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

The Trust's key management personnel are deemed to be the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operations Officer and the Headteachers. The remuneration of these personnel is reviewed independently by the Pay Committee and benchmarked externally.

Benchmarking is undertaken against local market conditions and national comparison of trusts and schools in similar circumstances, in addition to consideration of contribution and skill set.

### Trade union facility time

The Trust has no employees who are relevant union officials and there was no time spent on facility time during the year. The Trust subscribes to a membership in Oxfordshire County Council to provide union support for staff to meet its legal requirement.

### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust.



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Objectives and Activities

#### Objects and Aims

The principal objectives of the Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to:

- Advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to, the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing, and developing schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs.
- Promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Oxfordshire and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of all stakeholders.

#### Vision and Principles

Propeller's overarching vision is 'To extend high quality SEND education to as many children and young people as we can'.

Our principles are to:

- Keep children and young people at the heart of every decision.
- Provide an innovative and developmental curriculum, which gives children and young people a strong foundation for long-term community cohesion, positive mental health and well-being, independence, and appropriate employment.
- Seek recognition nationally and locally for the quality and diversity of our provision.
- Share the benefits of best practice, collaboration, and new initiatives equally across all our schools and with external stakeholders.
- Support local communities and broader SEND needs within education and the wider community.
- Nurture a culture of improvement which welcomes learning, challenge, and assurance.
- Provide opportunities for staff to develop and progress, within a supportive and positive environment.
- Protect and use all our resources efficiently in pursuit of our Vision.
- Keep our governance structures streamlined to enable our teachers to remain focused on teaching.
- Accord everyone associated with the Trust the respect and dignity they deserve.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust has continued to engage in delivering its strategic objectives as defined in its Strategic Plan 2022-2025, namely:

- outstanding outcomes for all children and young people across the Trust;
- prepare and support all children and young people to be happy, active, and lifelong integral members of their community;
- effective Investment in our Staff;
- continually extend our reach to provide high quality support to as many children and young people as possible;
- maintain a sustainable business model to enable us to fulfil our strategic aims.

The main activities and achievements for the year ended 31 August 2024 are described below under the five strategic objectives laid out in the Plan.

### Key Objective 1: Outstanding Outcomes for All Children and Young People Across the Trust

- LA Education Safeguarding Audit Team (ESAT) inspections, LA audits and local best practice sessions were completed in all of our schools to ensure all pupils and staff are safe in Propeller schools.
- 95% of parents noted that their child was happy in our schools when responding to our 2022/23 survey.
- Mental Health and Well-being leads were adopted in all of our schools with strategic plans in place to ensure all pupils' well-being is effectively supported.
- Trust working groups reflected on and shared best practice across our schools.
- All schools were externally quality assured by an appropriately qualified School Improvement Partner (SIP), focusing on the quality of education. This assurance is reflected in the schools' dashboard presented to the Board at each session.
- SIP visits at Kingfisher School mirrored the findings of OFSTED in their ungraded inspection on 19/20th June which verified the school as a 'Good' school 50252544 (ofsted.gov.uk). OFSTED noted: 'Those who work in the school are well trained to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff show enormous care and kindness to every pupil. This means that pupils love coming to school because they feel happy and safe. Parents are very positive about their child's experiences. One parent echoed the sentiments of others, saying, 'You walk down the corridor and look in the classes and all have a smile on their faces. The teachers go above and beyond with the children. I am so lucky to have found a school where my SEN child is happy, relaxed and improving every single day.' The school has high expectations and is ambitious for what pupils can achieve. The primary aim is to develop effective communication. The school ensures that pupils are able to use a variety of resources and strategies so they can express their thoughts and wishes. Staff know their pupils well, and they give them the time and space to be as independent as possible. Pupils have all the help they need to manage their feelings and emotions. As a result, behaviour across the school is calm and purposeful'.
- The SIP also reported significant improvements at Bishopswood School and is on course to being inspected as a 'Good' school in the new year and visits to Fitzwaryn School have confirmed their Outstanding in all areas OFSTED grade.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- Read, Write Inc (RWI) has been rolled out across all schools with excellent reading progress made in all schools. OFSTED at Kingfisher noted; 'Reading is a priority in the school. Staff are well trained and expertly deliver phonics lessons. Many pupils learn skills such as letter sounds and blending. They go on to become confident readers with strong comprehension skills.'
- 100% of children went into education or employment.
- Pupils attend our schools regularly. All Trust schools' attendance was above the national special school average of 87% (DFE data for academic year 23/24).
- All schools continue to offer extensive curriculum enrichment offers and regularly offer experience outside of the school gates and in their local communities in line with their careers development plans. Gatsby outcomes are strong and improving in all schools. We have also ensured that preparation for adulthood (PFA) outcomes now link directly to EHCPs through annual reviews.
- Each school has many pupils who have benefited from the Trust commissioning the work of a Sensory Occupational Therapist. This has also developed staff expertise and confidence in planning and delivering for pupils requiring a sensory diet.
- Each school is contributing to a trust wide review of assessment which is having a positive impact on staff planning.
- 12 pupils at Fitzwaryn School have achieved a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and one has achieved a Silver. The Trust offers a broad suite of qualifications which are matched to the needs of our pupils.

### Key Objective 2: Prepare and Support All Children and Young People to be Happy, Active, and Lifelong Integral Members of their Community.

- Our continued partnership work, notably with OXLEP, the local authority and stakeholder engagement programmes has allowed our pupils to access a wide number of encounters with employers and the local community. Links with local businesses, careers guidance and employment opportunities have been extended wherever possible, supported by our Chief Executive Officer chairing the Local Authority SEN employment forum.
- Our community offer has been continually extended and is now an integral part of the curriculum in all of our schools.
- Home School Link Worker have provided families with extensive support and are developing a local network centre for Trust families.
- The Trust has successfully delivered its first Supported Internship programmes.
- Each school has developed their own internal social enterprises.
- The Trust has been working on the delivery of its first Trust-level external social enterprise, a community café due for opening in the near future which will offer pupils the opportunity of employment, work experience and community encounters.
- Careers and options fairs have been held for parents and pupils with representatives from colleges present.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- All schools are assessed against Gatsby benchmarking (national standards for Careers Education) and the use of Compass plus (focusing on individual careers provision) has been successfully piloted at Fitzwaryn for full roll out.
- Mental health and well-being forms part of each school curriculum and is taught as a topic in its own right.

### Key Objective 3: Effective Investment in our Staff

- The Trust has continued to invest in external high quality training for all leaders with access to NPQs/CIPD qualifications.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) plans are agreed for all staff each year, ensuring that training is effective and takes into consideration differing levels of experience and school priorities. The Trust has successfully piloted a new appraisal scheme for classroom support staff with a view to full roll-out.
- The Trust has adopted a new flexible working policy and other family friendly policies and continues to maintain its well-being days for all staff.
- The Trust has been identifying staff talent and highlighting career pathways in the light of trust growth.
- Leadership and Management has been highlighted as a major strength in external SIP/OFSTED visits.
- A successful recruitment drive at Bishopswood has contributed to the improvements in education and improved staff well-being.
- Leaders from across the Trust work together to share expertise and drive agreed priorities. Trust-wide working groups provide opportunities to share best practice and have focused on Maths, English, safeguarding, assessment, behaviour, and teaching and learning.

### Key Objective 4: Continually extend our reach to provide high quality support to as many children and young people as possible.

- The Trust has developed and implemented an updated Growth Strategy with a broad aim of reaching 10 schools by 2030.
- The Trust has been approved as the sponsor of Woodeaton Manor School following an academy conversion order and is planned to be onboarded in early 2025.
- The Trust also successfully bid to open Forest View School in Bracknell, a new-build special school planned to open in September 2027.
- The Trust has submitted a bid for a new special free school in Buckinghamshire.
- In partnership with OCC, the Trust has delivered an outreach service that has reached over 40 local mainstream schools.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- We have also extended our partnerships, support, and influence in SEN across our region. Our Chief Executive Officer has been commissioned for support across local schools, our Chief Operations Officer has worked closely with Oxfordshire County Council to shape SEN funding levels now and in the future and is a member of the Schools' Forum, the Headteacher of our Fitzwaryn School has been an active member of the development group for the Council's outreach programme, and the Trust continues to work alongside our commissioners to support sufficiency strategies.
- We continue to work with local schools and Multi-Academy Trusts to develop sustainable partnerships, including our Headteachers contributing to key partnership meetings with the County Council.

### Key Objective 5: Maintain a Sustainable Business Model to Enable us to Fulfil our Strategic Aims

- We have continued to develop the sites at Bishopswood in the short and long term. We have continued to develop the current learning environment on both sites and have an agreement in principle for a new provision on the secondary site and are negotiating a plan for the future on the primary site.
- The COO successfully led negotiations with the LA to secure appropriate funding for special schools in the county. Equally, additional funding was secured to meet the needs of our most complex pupils.
- We take pride in the rigour and effectiveness of our financial management. Budget responsibility is part of the Trust's ethos, championed by all our leaders ensuring that, despite the impact of external pressures, (including unfunded pay increases) the Trust has maintained healthy reserves to enable continued investment and growth. External audit of our financial statements once again confirmed the effectiveness of our financial controls through an ESFA audit in the Autumn term.
- A costed Estates Plan, in line with DfE guidance is in place to ensure our sites remain safe and fit for purpose.
- The Trust has appointed a new Director who will add relevant experience in finance and governance.
- A plan to provide the Trust with a costed staffing structure that has the capacity to support growth plans is in place in readiness for implementation in 2024/25.

### Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirement in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in Oxfordshire and the surrounding area.

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Strategic Report

#### Achievements and Performance

The Trust has described its principal achievements in the year to 31 August 2024 in full in the previous section, using the categories set out in our Strategic Plan for 2022-25. Some of the highlights from a busy and productive year have been:

- Kingfisher School's OFSTED visit validated the high-quality education it delivers.
- Bishopswood School continues to make excellent progress following conversion.
- Fitzwaryn remains an outstanding provision, validated by external SIP visits.
- The Trust is looking forward to being able to welcome Woodeaton Manor School to its Trust as its 4th school early in 2025 following approval as the sponsor by the DFE.
- The Trust was successful in the award of Forest View by the DFE. The school, in Bracknell, is a special free school due for opening in 2027.
- Hannah Gordon, Assistant Headteacher at Fitzwaryn School, was awarded Careers Leader of the Year at the OXLEP County Awards.
- The Trust leadership team was in high demand for its consultancy work.
- The Trust's new outreach offer has reached over 40 mainstream schools to date with exceptional feedback.
- The Trust's ESFA Financial Management and Governance Review audit concluded with no material issues.
- Attendance in all of our schools is above the national average for Special Schools.
- 10 pupils achieving bronze and 1 achieving silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

Alongside the activities noted above, schools within the Trust have continued to work on the priorities set out in their strategies, approved by their respective Governing Bodies. As a result:

- All our schools have maintained or improved their educational standards, as verified by Ofsted ratings or external SIP assessments.
- External verification of all schools was reported to the Board by a School Improvement Partner.
- Outcomes for the pupils (both academically and personal skills) against EHCP targets, remain a particular strength of the Trust.
- All pupils moved on to appropriate destinations in either education, training, or the community.
- The quality of safeguarding in all schools has been positively reviewed externally.
- Attendance across all Trust schools remain above the national SEN average.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

### Student Achievement

Student achievement at the Trust is measured in several ways, not only through academic results, but through the annual EHCP review process with all stakeholders. This process ensures that every child meets their potential and goals. Pupils' progress in their academic and personal development is monitored termly linked to annual targets. These are personalised and reflect the needs of these pupils.

Qualifications and achievements across our three schools are varied and wide ranging to reflect the needs and abilities of our pupils. It is not possible to nationally benchmark our pupils' achievements and progress and attainment is reviewed on an individual basis. In 2023/24, pupils across the Trust achieved qualification and recognition in the following areas (where appropriate):

Entry Level 1 Maths 3 pupils  
Entry Level 1 English 3 pupils  
Entry Level 2 Maths 2 pupils  
Entry Level 2 English 6 pupils  
ASDAN Transition Challenge 11 pupils  
ASDAN Personal and Social Development 3 pupils  
ASDAN Pupil Progress Award 4 pupils  
ASDAN Sensory Challenge 3 pupils  
Hospitality and Catering Award 7 pupils  
IT User Award 7 pupils  
Performing Arts Award 7 pupils  
OPEN Awards Entry Level Diploma Independent Living Level 1 Diploma 1 student  
OPEN Awards Entry Level Diploma Independent Living Level 2 Diploma 3 pupils  
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 10 pupils  
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 1 student

### Student Destinations

Abingdon and Witney College 14 pupils  
Henly College 2 pupils  
City of Oxford College 3 pupils  
Priors Court 1 student  
National Star College 1 student  
Employment 1 student

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Key Performance Indicators

#### School Information:

School	Number on Roll	OFSTED grade/date
Bishopswood	71	New to Trust
Fitzwaryn	122	Outstanding May 2022
Kingfisher	115	Good June 2024

#### Going Concern

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

#### Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the Department for Education (DfE) via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE and other organisations and these are shown as Restricted Fixed Asset Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, total income (excluding restricted fixed asset reserve and restricted pension reserve) was £8,756,679 (2023: £7,163,309) and total expenditure (again excluding restricted fixed asset reserve and restricted pension reserve) was £8,661,733 (2023: £7,319,996). The excess of incoming resources over total expenditure for the period was £94,946 (2023: a deficit of £156,687).

In 2024 the Trust concluded its capital project at Kingfisher school and retention fees have been released to the supplier.

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2024 was £15,993,379 (2023: £16,229,619) after depreciation charges for the period of £368,640 (2023: £364,596 – restated). The fixed assets held by the Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust's schools.

The balance of total funds held at 31 August 2024 was £17,210,326 (2023: £17,043,166).



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Financial Review (continued)

The key financial policies reviewed during the period included the Financial Regulations Manual, which lays out the framework for the Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Local Governing Bodies, Headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed during the period included charges and lettings, and asset management.

### Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually (latest July 2024). This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments, and the nature of reserves. The Trustees also take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams, and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves should be approximately 10% of total incoming resources. As at 31 August 2024 this requires free cash reserves of £888k. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover cash flow issues due to delays in receipt of funding, emergencies and justified, unavoidable expenditure.

The reserves as at 31 August 2024 were as follows:

- Unrestricted (free) reserves of £984,584 (2023: £805,464)
- A restricted fixed asset fund of £16,006,688 (2023: £16,243,613), which can only be realised through disposal of tangible fixed assets
- A pension deficit of £113,000 (2023: £432,000)
- Other restricted funds of £332,054 (2023: £426,089)
- Total funds of £17,210,326 (2023: £17,043,166)

Unrestricted and restricted general reserves of £1,316,638 (2023: £1,231,553) are allocated as follows:

- £888k to meet the requirements of free reserves as set out above.
- £329k to cover contributions to critical capital maintenance work subject to TCaF bids.

### Investment Policy

The Trust usually invests all funds surplus to immediate requirements into fixed term deposits. Where cash flow allows, sums in excess of £85,000 may be invested on deposit for extended periods with the Trust's principal bankers or other reputable financial institutions. The Trust received £17,647 in interest from investments in the accounting period.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

As at the end of August 2024, the Board remained focused on the following six key risks:

- 1) Budget expenditure and income, and failed funding from Oxfordshire County Council.
- 2) The impact of unplanned green book pay rises.
- 3) IT Infrastructure and stability connectivity, pending a decision on the Trust Capacity Fund grant.
- 4) The quality of education and the impact of overcrowding of students in all locations, classrooms, and infrastructure.
- 5) The level, frequency, and cost of staff absence and the disruption to education.
- 6) The continuing delays in the site development of Bishopswood secondary provision.

### Risk management

The Trustees and Executive Leaders assess risks that the schools and Trust face, especially in the operational areas (such as teaching and health & safety), and in relation to the control of finances and compliance. The Trust has maintained systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls, to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk remains adequate insurance cover has been put in place.

The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls, and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement. In addition, the COO is a member of schools' forum and contributes to national forums. This allows the Trust to influence policy and raise strategic funding concerns.

### Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register, and a Risk Management Plan. These are reviewed at each meeting of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and include the financial risks to the Trust. The Risk Register and Risk Management Plan are constantly reviewed in light of any new information, and are reported to each Board meeting.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academies are exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities, and other operational areas.

Whilst the Academies are currently oversubscribed, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small. However, the national picture for special educational needs and the increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be under significant pressure in coming years and would benefit from review at national level. The Trust continues to work proactively with the County Council regarding the top up funding and retrospective uplifts.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at each Board meeting and monthly to the Chair of the Trust as required by the Academy Trust Handbook.

At the balance sheet date, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade or other creditors where there would be a significant effect on the Trust's liquidity.

The Trustees recognise that the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Trust. However, as the Trustees consider that the Trust can meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised. In the Trust's future planning, consideration has been given to increases in both employee and employer contributions.

The Trustees maintain current conditions survey reports, fire safety inspections and annual compliance checks to ensure the estate remains safe.

### Fundraising

As part of its work within the community, the Academy Trust undertakes fundraising activities, for example through fetes, cake sales, non-uniform days etc. The Academy Trust raises funds in order to support its own operations and also to make donations to local and national charities. The Academy Trust undertakes all such activities itself, with the help of its students and their families. We confirm that when fundraising:

- No unsolicited approaches are made to members of the public.
- No commercial participators are used.
- No regularity schemes or standards are applicable.
- No complaints were made to the Academy Trust during the year.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

Plans for Future Periods

Key Objectives for the academic year 2024/2025

### *Strategic Developments*

Specific activities planned for the forthcoming year under each of our five strategic objectives are set out below:

1. Outstanding outcomes for all children and young people across the trust
  - Review the curriculum offer in all schools.
  - Review and implement assessment system in all schools.
  - Further develop cross Trust working in key areas - assessment and moderation, behaviour, safeguarding.
  - Develop Trust subject specialists to work across schools.
  - Review the post 16 provision across the Trust.
  - Develop the use of technology in the classroom.
  
2. Prepare and support all children and young people to be happy, active, and lifelong integral members of their community
  - Extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
  - Continue to grow the Trust's Mental Health and Well-Being offer.
  - Extend the number and range of Supported Internships.
  - Confirm plans for a Trust 16-25 offer.
  - Deliver a Trust parent/carer support portal.
  - Develop the range and quality of pupil voice to inform school and Trust wide planning.
  - Continue to embed a Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) strand into all EHCP reviews.
  - Develop a community hub of life skills and community integration.
  
3. Effective investment in our staff
  - Continue to develop the number of means of recruitment methods to attract high-quality staff, ready for expansion.
  - Develop the number of routes into teaching.
  - Invest in talent identification and progression routes across the Trust, ready for further expansion.
  - Continue to commit to high quality national and local CPD for support staff and teachers.
  - Use voice and employment engagement to improve performance and manage attendance.
  - Extend the Outreach service, offering existing staff opportunities for professional development.
  - Invest in high quality management systems to ease workload.
  - Review workload in all schools in line with national guidance.
  - Successfully embed new flexible working policy.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Plans for Future Periods (continued)

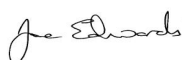
4. Continually extend our reach to provide high quality support to as many pupils as possible
  - Extend the Trust wide outreach offer.
  - Successfully onboard Woodeaton Manor School.
  - Develop successful bids for identified new free school targets.
  - Continue to offer leadership consultancy work locally.
  - Work with the local authority to develop our 16-25 plans.
  - Develop and deliver capacity plans to support growth strategy.
  - Enhance existing partnerships, including those with our commissioners.
  - Actively bid through the CIF process to ensure the continued safety of our schools.
  
5. Maintain a sustainable business model to enable us to fulfil our strategic aims
  - Restructure the leadership and central team to reflect growth opportunities.
  - Continue to work with LA partners to shape the financial landscape including schools' forum.
  - Refine an Estates strategy to reflect growth.
  - Deliver transfer to a cloud based IT system, merging to single Trust control.
  - Move to real time forecasting.
  - Develop the Trust's central team office space.
  - Upgrade Trust HR systems.
  - Review governance support across the Trust.
  - Actively manage an internal scrutiny program to align with the Trust risks.

### Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 11 November 2024 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



J Edwards  
Chair of Trustees

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

### Scope of Responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Propeller Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

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

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
J Edwards (Chair)	7	7
J Chadwick	5	7
D Buckley-Golder	6	7
T Hodgson	6	7
E Ricks-Neal	6	7
T Pegler	6	7
S Mitchell	2	5
C Winch	5	5

During the year C Winch was appointed to the Board of trustees and S Mitchell resigned. M Marsh was appointed on 1 September 2024.

### Coverage of the Board's work

The Board continues to engage with stakeholders. Local Chairs of LGBs are invited to Board meetings and a Board member is linked to each school. The Board's work continues to monitor the growth plan, the viability of the Bishopswood site, the operating structure of the senior executive team through its resourcing strategy, whilst monitoring income levels and observing the due diligence process for Woodeaton.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

### Conflicts of interest

The Trust requires all individuals identified as needing to complete a register of business interest to confirm the details held are accurate on an annual basis. All individuals are notified of the requirement to inform the Trust of any changes to their register at the earliest possible time and this is contained within the governance documents of the academies. All committee and board meeting agendas have, as standing items, the requirement to confirm the existence of any conflicts and that the registers are up to date.

### Governance reviews

The Board undertook an annual skills audit to ensure skill alignment. This resulted in C Winch (Trustee) joining the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (effective from October 2024). The Trust also undertook an inspection by the ESFA for its governance, audit and policies as part of the effectiveness review. The inspection took place in October 2023 and found standards to be high and consistent with the Academy Trust Handbook.

### Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provides guidance and assistance to the stakeholders on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health and Safety of the Trust. This includes reviewing annual budgets, monitoring financial performance against that budget, reviewing delegated authorities, ensuring all transactions are conducted in accordance with good practice as directed by the ESFA, to ensure best value is achieved in all financial transactions and to receive and (where relevant) respond to period audit reports on the Trust and of public funds. The Chair of the Trust and the Chairs of LGBs receive monthly accounts in line with the Academy Trust Handbook. The Committee updated its terms of reference in the year, in addition to reviewing financial performance against budget and forecast and routinely reviewing the risk register at each meeting. The Committee also determines the internal scrutiny programme.

Attendance at Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
D Buckley-Golder (Chair)	5	5
E Ricks-Neal	3	5
J Chadwick	5	5
T Hodgson	5	5

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

### Pay Committee

The Pay Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to review the pay of the senior leadership team. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
J Chadwick	1	1
T Hodgson (Chair)	1	1
E Ricks-Neal	1	1

Governors Attendance at Fitzwaryn September 2023 - August 2024:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
W Tica (Chair)	6	6
J Lapsley	3	6
S Coneboy	5	6
B Broomfield	6	6
J Pierce	6	6
Major J Sibbald	5	5
A Bennett	0	1
F Assersohn	6	6
A McPherson	4	6
D Shaw	5	6
C Brown	3	6

Governors Attendance at Kingfisher September 2023- August 2024:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
S Shepherd (Chair)	5	5
T Whitehead	5	5
L Wilson	5	5
C Bartlett	4	5
M Hill	4	5
S Adair	3	5
J Ding	2	5
C Bousahla	3	5
R Long	4	5
N Phipps	0	1
W Mehmood	1	1
F Rodriguez-Nodal	0	1



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Governors Attendance at Bishopswood September 2023 – August 2024:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
M Winch (Chair)	6	6
M Delaney	3	4
K Hicks	4	6
R Kennell	2	2
P Bhagrath	6	6
J Baker	6	6
N Jones	0	3
P Shuttlewood	1	3

### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by holding suppliers to account, with 27 contracts reviewed to ensure costs were maintained or improved. The Trust held a supplier to account for the installation of a faulty bike track which was three years old and received a new free replacement in accordance with the fit for purpose rule of the Sale of Goods Act (value £40k). Additionally, the development of technology in back-office infrastructure will lead to the reduction of routine tasks and admin heavy tasks, which will reduce ongoing labour costs and improve quality of service. The Trust continued to relieve pressure on training budgets with the use of the apprenticeship levy and external sponsors. The Trust also delivered better value than expected on the Kingfisher extension project and was able to achieve additional internal works within the funded grant.

### The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

### Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

### The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to use suitably qualified independent external advisers to undertake specific reviews agreed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

The internal scrutiny reviewer role includes giving advice and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems. The checks carried out in the current period included:

- Review of estate and facilities strategy
- GDPR review for Bishopswood School
- One day reviews at each school by a former Ofsted inspector

The estate and facilities strategy review identified that all schools had been planned and resourced well, with remaining concerns on the Bishopswood site. The GDPR review resulted in a review and training scheme for the new office staff, while addressing the issues raised and the school improvement partner reviews identified significant progress at Bishopswood, and that Kingfisher and Fitzwaryn maintain good and outstanding education offers.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The internal review of the estate and facilities strategy has only partially met the needs of the Trustees. Whilst the inspection was completed and the evidential report raised no concerns, the report does not provide enough detail on the areas which were reviewed. As this remains an item in the risk register this will be reviewed again in 2025. The GDPR report met the needs of internal scrutiny and this sampling will continue in other schools in 2025 given the newness of the school office teams. The school improvement partner work in Bishopswood provided reassurance of the trajectory of improvement and, for the two remaining schools, ensured that standards were still aspirational, of which Kingfisher was also validated by Ofsted.

In addition, the Trust has undertaken two reviews using internal resources:

- A review of internal financial manual and procedures including a full review of the effectiveness of the PAT financial manual and associated procedures. This will, along with the annual audit, provide assurance that internal processes and procedures are efficient and effective.
- A review of the quality of estate management across the Trust. The Trust has identified a potential weakness both in a new site team across multiple locations and the need for the Board to understand the new compliance measures. An appropriate and highly experienced professional with over 30 years in LA estate management was identified.

The internal reviewers report to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

### Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal scrutiny reviewers
- the work of the external auditor
- 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 implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

### Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 11 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



J Edwards  
Chair of Trustees



T Pegler  
Accounting Officer

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of The Propeller Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

*T Pegler*

T Pegler  
Accounting Officer  
11 November 2024

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

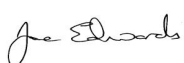
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 11 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



J Edwards  
Chair of Trustees

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Propeller Academy Trust

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Propeller Academy Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Propeller Academy Trust

### Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report), and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Propeller Academy Trust

### Responsibilities of the Trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Propeller Academy Trust

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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

### Use of our report

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

*James Flood*

J Flood FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date ..... 20 Nov 2024 .....

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Propeller Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 April 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Propeller Academy Trust 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 The Propeller Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Propeller Academy Trust and the 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 the The Propeller Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Propeller Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Propeller Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 23 December 2022 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Propeller Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

### Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by the 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 as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2023) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Propeller Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

### Conclusion

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

*James Flood*

J Flood FCA  
Reporting Accountant  
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date ..... 20 Nov 2024 .....

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total (Restated) £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	2	21,743	-	-	121,854	143,597	340,801
Transfer from local authority on conversion	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,380,603
Other trading activities	4	103,296	-	-	-	103,296	98,616
Investments	5	17,647	-	-	-	17,647	15,987
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	36,434	8,577,559	-	-	8,613,993	6,951,139
<b>Total</b>		<b>179,120</b>	<b>8,577,559</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121,854</b>	<b>8,878,533</b>	<b>9,787,146</b>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	7	-	8,661,733	23,000	368,640	9,053,373	8,107,592
Net income / (expenditure)		179,120	(84,174)	(23,000)	(246,786)	(174,840)	1,679,554
Transfers between funds	17	-	(9,861)	-	9,861	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	-	342,000	-	342,000	1,044,000
Net movement in funds		179,120	(94,035)	319,000	(236,925)	167,160	2,723,554
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		805,464	426,089	(432,000)	16,243,613	17,043,166	14,319,612
Total funds carried forward		984,584	332,054	(113,000)	16,006,688	17,210,326	17,043,166

The notes on pages 39 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

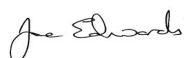
# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Company Number 08340120

	Note	2024	2024	<i>Restated</i>	2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		15,993,379		16,229,619
Current assets					
Debtors	14	380,533		233,872	
Investments	15	511,588		500,025	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,095,387</u>		<u>954,581</u>	
		1,987,508		1,688,478	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(657,561)</u>		<u>(442,931)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,329,947</u>		<u>1,245,547</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			17,323,326		17,475,166
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25		(113,000)		(432,000)
Total net assets			<u>17,210,326</u>		<u>17,043,166</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	17	16,006,688		16,243,613	
Restricted income fund	17	332,054		426,089	
Pension reserve	17	<u>(113,000)</u>		<u>(432,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			16,225,742		16,237,702
Unrestricted income funds	17		984,584		805,464
Total funds			<u>17,210,326</u>		<u>17,043,166</u>

The financial statements on pages 36 to 63 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



J Edwards  
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 39 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	<i>Restated</i> 2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	20	145,268	(34,792)
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(4,462)	22,787
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>140,806</u>	<u>(12,005)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		954,581	966,586
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	22	<u>1,095,387</u>	<u>954,581</u>



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 1 Accounting policies

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

#### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements 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. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

#### Going Concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements 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 financial statements.

#### 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.

- Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year 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.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### Income (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

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

### Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Leasehold Land and Buildings	125 years straight line for Land and 50 years straight line for buildings
Furniture and Equipment	20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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.

### 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.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### Provisions

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

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

### Leased Assets

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

### Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise fixed term bank deposits. These investments are classified as a basic financial instrument and are measured at amortised cost.

### Financial Instruments

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

#### *Financial assets*

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

#### *Cash at bank*

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

#### *Financial liabilities*

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

### 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 part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 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.

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. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the 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/(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.

### Fund Accounting

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

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

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 25.

### *Critical areas of judgement*

There are no critical areas of judgement.

### Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds.

## 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Capital grants	-	121,854	121,854	259,632
Other donations	21,743	-	21,743	81,169
	<u>21,743</u>	<u>121,854</u>	<u>143,597</u>	<u>340,801</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>81,169</i>	<i>259,632</i>	<i>340,801</i>	

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,660,000	2,660,000	2,362,630
16-19 core education funding	-	400,000	400,000	290,000
Pupil Premium	-	111,462	111,462	93,083
UIFSM	-	12,562	12,562	4,083
PE and sports grant	-	49,110	49,110	39,636
Other DfE grants	-	126,140	126,140	316,096
	-	3,359,274	3,359,274	3,105,528
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	5,218,285	5,218,285	3,819,305
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Catering income	36,434	-	36,434	26,306
	36,434	8,577,559	8,613,993	6,951,139
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>26,306</i>	<i>6,924,833</i>	<i>6,951,139</i>	

### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Hire of facilities	42,449	-	42,449	29,235
Other trading income	60,847	-	60,847	69,381
	103,296	-	103,296	98,616
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>98,616</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>98,616</i>	

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023/24 Total	2022/23 Total
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	17,647	-	17,647	15,987
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>15,987</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,987</u>	

### 6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			Total	<i>Restated</i>
	Staff costs	Premises	Other	2023/24	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	6,417,027	-	382,450	6,799,477	5,536,858
Allocated support costs	929,084	547,327	777,485	2,253,896	2,570,734
	<u>7,346,111</u>	<u>547,327</u>	<u>1,159,935</u>	<u>9,053,373</u>	<u>8,107,592</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>6,116,355</u>	<u>651,873</u>	<u>1,339,364</u>	<u>8,107,592</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2023/24	<i>Restated</i>
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	4,901	2,547
Depreciation	368,640	364,596
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	165,000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	13,955	15,100
Other services	<u>7,990</u>	<u>6,120</u>

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total	Individual items above £5,000	
	£	Amount	Reason
	£	£	
Gifts made by the Academy Trust	379	-	-



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 7 Charitable activities

	2023/24	<i>Restated</i> 2022/23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	6,799,477	5,536,858
Support costs – educational operations	2,253,896	2,570,734
	<u>9,053,373</u>	<u>8,107,592</u>

#### Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2023/24	<i>Restated</i> 2022/23
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	929,084	929,084	870,970
Depreciation	368,640	368,640	364,596
Technology costs	59,242	59,242	59,246
Premises costs	547,327	547,327	651,873
Other support costs	328,753	328,753	609,049
Governance costs	20,850	20,850	15,000
Total support costs	<u>2,253,896</u>	<u>2,253,896</u>	<u>2,570,734</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>		<u>2,570,734</u>	<u>2,570,734</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 8 Staff

#### a) Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	5,226,106	4,323,249
Social security costs	473,394	371,913
Pension costs	1,137,976	1,103,353
	<u>6,837,476</u>	<u>5,798,515</u>
Agency staff costs	508,635	317,840
	<u>7,346,111</u>	<u>6,116,355</u>

#### b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
Teachers	37	40
Administration and support	148	140
Management	14	12
	<u>199</u>	<u>192</u>

#### c) Higher paid staff

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	3	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	2
£100,001 - £110,000	2	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-

#### d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,308,295 (2023: £1,004,398).

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. Remuneration is only paid in respect of services provided undertaking staff roles under contracts of employment.

The value of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023/24	2022/23
		£000	£000
Thomas Pegler	Remuneration	135-140	115-120
(Trustee and CEO)	Employer’s pension contributions paid	30-35	25-30

During the period ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £6,051 were reimbursed or paid directly to two Trustees (2023: £3,731 to one Trustee).

### 10 Trustees’ and officers’ insurance

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 11 Central services

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

- IT
- Finance
- Health and safety
- School improvement
- Human resources
- Recruitment
- Media
- Grant support

The Academy Trust charges for these services in proportion to the number of pupils. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Bishopswood School	139,888	76,357
Fitzwaryn School	233,781	129,317
Kingfisher School	210,783	127,849
	<u>584,452</u>	<u>333,523</u>

### 12 Prior year adjustment

A prior year adjustment has been made to leasehold land and buildings to record the disposal of an asset, following the surrendering of a lease in February 2023. The effect of this adjustment is to reduce the cost of leasehold land and buildings by £165,000, creating a loss on disposal for the prior year of the same amount. The adjustment has consequentially reduced the depreciation charge on leasehold buildings by £2,083. The overall effect of the reduction is to reduce restricted fixed asset reserves by £162,917 for the year ended 31 August 2023.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	18,464,697	561,388	147,599	39,270	19,212,954
Acquisitions	55,970	76,430	-	-	132,400
At 31 August 2024	<u>18,520,667</u>	<u>637,818</u>	<u>147,599</u>	<u>39,270</u>	<u>19,345,354</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	2,386,693	426,399	130,973	39,270	2,983,335
Charged in year	317,892	42,435	8,313	-	368,640
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,704,585</u>	<u>468,834</u>	<u>139,286</u>	<u>39,270</u>	<u>3,351,975</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	16,078,004	134,989	16,626	-	16,229,619
At 31 August 2024	<u>15,816,082</u>	<u>168,984</u>	<u>8,313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,993,379</u>

### 14 Debtors

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade debtors	69,547	67,387
VAT recoverable	17,441	9,363
Prepayments and accrued income	293,545	157,122
	<u>380,533</u>	<u>233,872</u>

### 15 Current asset investments

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Bank deposits	<u>511,588</u>	<u>500,025</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Trade creditors	31,777	53,304
Other taxation and social security	98,473	90,458
Other creditors falling due within one year	139,034	116,007
Accruals and deferred income	388,277	183,162
	<u>657,561</u>	<u>442,931</u>

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	36,162	22,700
Released from previous years	(36,162)	(22,700)
Resources deferred in the year	233,300	36,162
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>233,300</u>	<u>36,162</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for grant income relating to the forthcoming financial year.

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	426,089	2,660,000	(2,744,174)	(9,861)	-	332,054
16-19 core education funding	-	400,000	(400,000)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	111,462	(111,462)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	12,562	(12,562)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	49,110	(49,110)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	126,140	(126,140)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	5,218,285	(5,218,285)	-	-	-
	<u>426,089</u>	<u>8,577,559</u>	<u>(8,661,733)</u>	<u>(9,861)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>332,054</u>
Pension reserve	(432,000)	-	(23,000)	-	342,000	(113,000)
	<u>(5,911)</u>	<u>8,577,559</u>	<u>(8,684,733)</u>	<u>(9,861)</u>	<u>342,000</u>	<u>219,054</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed asset fund	16,229,619	-	(368,640)	132,400	-	15,993,379
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	13,994	26,813	-	(27,498)	-	13,309
Other capital grants	-	95,041	-	(95,041)	-	-
	<u>16,243,613</u>	<u>121,854</u>	<u>(368,640)</u>	<u>9,861</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,006,688</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>16,237,702</u>	<u>8,699,413</u>	<u>(9,053,373)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342,000</u>	<u>16,225,742</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>805,464</u>	<u>179,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>984,584</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>17,043,166</u>	<u>8,878,533</u>	<u>(9,053,373)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342,000</u>	<u>17,210,326</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 17 Funds (continued)

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

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

#### General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre- and post-16 high needs funding streams.

#### Other DfE/ESFA grants

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

#### Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

#### Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

#### Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion.

#### Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

#### DfE/ESFA capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

#### Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 17 Funds (continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2023/24	<i>Restated</i> 2022/23
	£	£
Bishopswood School	(107,668)	(36,853)
Fitzwaryn School	1,017,165	903,575
Kingfisher School	407,141	364,831
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,316,638	1,231,553
Restricted fixed asset fund	16,006,688	16,243,613
Pension reserve	(113,000)	(432,000)
Total	<u>17,210,326</u>	<u>17,043,166</u>

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	£
Bishopswood School	<u>107,668</u>

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The deficit has arisen for two factors. The building is unsafe and not fit for purpose which has resulted in significant financial investment, for example a health and safety pager system, general expenditure on furniture, and one-off charges as a result of the conversion. The wider issue is that staff received retention allowances to enable recruitment. The school is located in a five-mile radius of three other counties which pay more both in placement of child and staff pay rates. This matter is being raised with the Oxfordshire County Council Director of Children's Services for additional funding and, if that is not successful, admissions will favour local counties rather than Oxfordshire County Council. This school remains of significant concern, as facilities remain inadequate, costs are higher with split sites, and recruitment remains a challenge in the local area.

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excl. dep- reciation) £	2023/24 Total £	<i>Restated</i> 2022/23 Total £
Bishopswood School	1,709,457	256,611	183,862	197,623	2,347,553	1,584,114
Fitzwaryn School	2,359,956	350,062	112,596	357,299	3,179,913	3,127,663
Kingfisher School	2,347,614	322,411	85,992	401,250	3,157,267	3,031,219
	<u>6,417,027</u>	<u>929,084</u>	<u>382,450</u>	<u>956,172</u>	<u>8,684,733</u>	<u>7,742,996</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 17 Funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period (restated - see note 12) is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	878,421	2,362,630	(2,757,793)	(57,169)	-	426,089
16-19 core education funding	-	290,000	(290,000)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	93,083	(93,083)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	4,083	(4,083)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	39,636	(39,636)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	316,096	(316,096)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	3,819,305	(3,819,305)	-	-	-
	<u>878,421</u>	<u>6,924,833</u>	<u>(7,319,996)</u>	<u>(57,169)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>426,089</u>
Pension reserve	(1,081,000)	(137,000)	(258,000)	-	1,044,000	(432,000)
	<u>(202,579)</u>	<u>6,787,833</u>	<u>(7,577,996)</u>	<u>(57,169)</u>	<u>1,044,000</u>	<u>(5,911)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed asset fund	13,955,203	2,501,205	(529,596)	302,807	-	16,229,619
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	79,719	-	(65,725)	-	13,994
Other capital grants	-	179,913	-	(179,913)	-	-
	<u>13,955,203</u>	<u>2,760,837</u>	<u>(529,596)</u>	<u>57,169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,243,613</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>13,752,624</u>	<u>9,548,670</u>	<u>(8,107,592)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,044,000</u>	<u>16,237,702</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>566,988</u>	<u>238,476</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>805,464</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>14,319,612</u>	<u>9,787,146</u>	<u>(8,107,592)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,044,000</u>	<u>17,043,166</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	15,993,379	15,993,379
Current assets	984,584	989,615	-	13,309	1,987,508
Current liabilities	-	(657,561)	-	-	(657,561)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(113,000)	-	(113,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>984,584</b>	<b>332,054</b>	<b>(113,000)</b>	<b>16,006,688</b>	<b>17,210,326</b>

Restated comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	16,229,619	16,229,619
Current assets	805,464	869,020	-	13,994	1,688,478
Current liabilities	-	(442,931)	-	-	(442,931)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(432,000)	-	(432,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>805,464</b>	<b>426,089</b>	<b>(432,000)</b>	<b>16,243,613</b>	<b>17,043,166</b>

### 19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

#### Operating leases

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	5,091	782
Amounts due between one and five years	10,330	-
	<b>15,421</b>	<b>782</b>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023/24	<i>Restated</i> 2022/23
	£	£
Net (expenditure) / income for the reporting period	(174,840)	1,679,554
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	368,640	364,596
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	165,000
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(121,854)	(259,632)
Interest receivable	(17,647)	(15,987)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	-	204,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	23,000	54,000
Transfer from local authority on conversion	-	(2,380,603)
Cash transferred on conversion	-	16,398
Increase in debtors	(146,661)	(21,184)
Increase in creditors	214,630	159,066
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	<u>145,268</u>	<u>(34,792)</u>

### 21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	17,647	15,987
(Increase) / decrease in current asset investments	(11,563)	49,975
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(132,400)	(302,807)
Capital grants from DfE Group	26,813	79,719
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	95,041	179,913
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	<u>(4,462)</u>	<u>22,787</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,095,387</u>	<u>954,581</u>

### 23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries £	New finance leases £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash	954,581	140,806	-	-	-	1,095,387
Total	<u>954,581</u>	<u>140,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,095,387</u>

### 24 Member liability

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 25 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 Oxfordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £132,961 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £110,588) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £603,251 (2023: £450,506).

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

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	528,000	449,000
Employees' contributions	158,000	134,000
	<u>686,000</u>	<u>583,000</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.8% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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.

#### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
Rate of increase in salaries	2.7%	3.0%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7%	3.0%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.2%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7%	3.0%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<u>50.0%</u>	<u>50.0%</u>

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

	2024	2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.1	22.1
Females	<u>24.1</u>	<u>24.7</u>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.6
Females	<u>25.7</u>	<u>25.7</u>

# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

#### Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(168,000)	(146,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	168,000	146,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	285,000	248,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(285,000)	(248,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	166,000	139,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(166,000)	(139,000)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Equities	5,056,000	3,401,000
Gilts	1,264,000	1,844,000
Property	632,000	346,000
Cash and other liquid assets	70,000	173,000
Total market value of assets	<u>7,022,000</u>	<u>5,764,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £686,000 (2023: £178,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Current service cost	528,000	653,000
Interest income	(314,000)	(224,000)
Interest cost	337,000	278,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>551,000</u>	<u>707,000</u>



# The Propeller Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At 1 September	6,196,000	6,038,000
Conversion of Academy Trusts	-	252,000
Current service cost	528,000	653,000
Interest cost	337,000	278,000
Employee contributions	158,000	134,000
Actuarial loss / (gain)	30,000	(1,090,000)
Benefits paid	(114,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August	<u>7,135,000</u>	<u>6,196,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At 1 September	5,764,000	4,957,000
Conversion of Academy Trusts	-	115,000
Interest income	314,000	224,000
Actuarial gain / (loss)	372,000	(46,000)
Employer contributions	528,000	449,000
Employee contributions	158,000	134,000
Benefits paid	(114,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August	<u>7,022,000</u>	<u>5,764,000</u>

### 26 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

### 27 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the academy trust received £5,024 and disbursed £5,024 from the fund. As at 31 August 2024, the cumulative unspent 16-19 bursary fund is £nil, of which £nil relates to undistributed funding that is repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 are £3,095 received, £3,095 disbursed, total cumulative unspent fund of £nil of which £nil was repayable to ESFA.