

Company registration number 07827963 (England and Wales)

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2024

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

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St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	The Trustees of the Property held in connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers P C Goodwin Br G D Sassi
Trustees	P C Goodwin (Chair) M Arthur Fr J Brandon (resigned 31/08/2024) S Chauhan J Itua (resigned 21/03/2024) A Lawal A Lewis A McHale K Mills-Webb (appointed 16/10/2024) D Rainey (Principal and Accounting Officer) P Riley H Rose R Simpson R Tavernor
Senior management team	
- Principal	D Rainey
- Vice Principal	R Wheelan
- Vice Principal	P Groves
- Assistant Principal	S Brady
- Assistant Principal	M Hill
- Associate Assistant Principal	L Reed
- Associate Assistant Principal	D Sweeney
- Chief Financial Officer	A Jones
Company secretary	A Jones
Company registration number	07827963 (England and Wales)
Principal and registered office	Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 0HE
Independent auditor	DJH Audit Limited, Bridge House, Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA14 2UT
Bankers	NatWest Bank Plc, 23 Stamford New Road, Altrincham, WA14 1DB
Solicitors	Stone King LLP, 11 York Street, Manchester, M2 2AW

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 serving a catchment of pastoral areas in Greater Manchester, Cheshire, and the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number: 07827963) and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The charitable company is known as St Ambrose College and is referred to throughout this report as 'the College'.

The trustees of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. 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 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 trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The company's articles of association provide for the election or appointment of trustees. In summary, the number of trustees shall not be less than three and has no maximum number. Ordinarily, the board of trustees consists of: up to 8 foundation trustees appointed by the chair of the trustees of the property held in connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers; up to 4 parent trustees appointed by parents of registered pupils in the College; up to 2 staff trustees appointed by staff members of the College; and principal ex officio.

A trustee's term of office (excluding the principal) is four years and they may be re-appointed or re-elected for further terms of office. Foundation Governors will serve no longer than 3 consecutive terms and Co-Opted Governors will serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms of office.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the board of trustees or based on a proposal to the board of trustees by representative groups. The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new trustees are given a tour of the College and the chance to meet with other trustees, staff and pupils. All plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as trustees are provided. Trustees also attend training on specific trustee requirements and roles and responsibilities provided by Trust GS.

During the year, trustees are offered all necessary training, provide feedback to relevant committees and this is monitored and tracked centrally.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Organisational structure

The governance of the trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

All trustees are members of the full board of trustees. In addition, trustees are members of committees which report to the full board of trustees. During the year the full board met four times.

The organisational structure consists of three levels; the trustees, the senior leadership team and faculty leaders. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision-making at all levels. The trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the College by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of College expenditure and matters relating to staffing (resourcing, appointing, pay and performance monitoring). The senior leadership team comprises the Principal, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals, Associate Assistant Principals and the Business Support Manager. These managers control the College at an executive level, implementing the policies laid-down by the trustees and reporting to them. As a group, the senior leadership team is responsible for the allocation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff through appointment boards. Some spending control is devolved to members of the faculty (subject and department leaders). Spending limits exist which require authorisation by the senior leadership team. Individual budget managers include faculty leaders and department leaders (including premises and catering). These managers are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the College, in particular, organising teaching and learning, pastoral and extra-curricular facilities and opportunities.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The board of trustees has established a Pay Committee with fully delegated authority to develop, implement and administer the pay policy on its behalf. The remuneration of key management personnel is set in accordance with the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and the College pay and appraisal policies. Progression up the scale is dependent on performance management. The Principal is excluded from discussion regarding his own pay.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	2
Full-time equivalent employee number	2.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	221
Total pay bill	5,356,355
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.00%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Engagement with employees

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The College carries out informal discussions for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the trustees. The College has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters. The College has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Equal opportunities

The trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The College aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working and learning environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

Disabled persons

There is wheelchair access to all areas throughout the College including lifts to all floors, refuge points on fire escapes and specific washroom facilities (including an alert mechanism for those in peril). The policy of the College is to support recruitment and retention of employees with disabilities. The College does this by adapting the physical environment by making support resources available and through training and career development.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Congregation of Christian Brothers owns the freehold of the College land that it currently leases to the College on a 99-year lease at an annual rent of one peppercorn. Saint Ambrose Parents' Association is a separate body which organises various fund-raising events to enhance facilities for pupils. The Saint Ambrose College Charity is a separately registered charity (registration number 526013). Its sole object is the provision of financial grants to the College for the up-keep or development of premises and facilities. The Saint Ambrose Sports Committee is a separate body which raises funds to support the school's participation in sporting fixtures and competitions and to enhance the range and quality of sporting opportunities afforded to the pupils.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object of the charitable company is the operation of Saint Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust to provide education for boys between the ages of 11 and 19.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The charitable company took over the operation of Saint Ambrose College on the College's conversion to academy status on 1 May 2012. Most of the College's recurrent income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The main objectives of the College during the year ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below: -

- To ensure that every boy enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition, welfare and care which accords with the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church and the principles of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Congregation of Christian Brothers
- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all boys
- To improve the effectiveness of the College by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under constant review
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curricular requirements
- To provide extra-curricular activities outside the classroom to enhance each boy's personal development
- To conduct the College's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The College's main vocational strategy is encompassed in the Blessed Edmund Rice Eight Essentials, which are:

- Evangelising the modern world
- Promoting the spiritual in Gospel
- Building a Christian community
- Compassion for those in need
- Concern for the whole person
- Striving for excellence
- Education as a Christian calling
- Education for justice

Public benefit

In setting of the objectives and in planning the activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees believe that the charitable company's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

A-Level

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (with EPQ)	2022 (no EPQ)	2023 (with EPQ)	2023 (no EPQ)	2024 (with EPQ)	2024 (no EPQ)
Average Points	145.94	117.94	151.14	161.65	146.90	139.33	121.74	133.83	138.13	127.05
APS per entry	38.82	37.57	45.22	47.11	44.54	44.60	39.22	39.44	41.07	41.46
Average Grade	B	B-	B+	A-	B+	B+	B=	B=	B=	B=
Value Added	0.15	-0.23	0.39	0.58	0.05	0.07	-0.40	-0.38	0.04	0.04
% of grades A*/A	40.2%	33.2%	50.5%	64.5%	48.4%	48.5%	30.7%	31.7	39.3	40.6
% of grades A*-B	70.5%	62%	82.5%	83.6%	80.3%	81.4%	64.0%	67.1%	71.1	72.2
% of grades A*-C	84.3%	80.5%	94.8%	96.7%	96.2%	97.3%	85.9%	87.9%	90.9	90.9
3+ AAB %	52.7%	47%	48%	64%	59%	46.7%	26.8%	26.8%	45.5	37.9
ALPS					3	3	3	3	4	4

The College has a high-performing sixth form and the 2024 A-level results highlighted a number of successes. The vast majority of students went onto further study at university, with over 65% securing places at Russell Group universities, and four students securing places at Oxbridge.

The 2024 results showed an improvement on 2023 results, with the percentage of students securing A*/A being up by almost 10%. This compares favourably with a national increase of 1.2% and suggests that the focus on A*/A at A-level is starting to have an impact. This focus will remain a whole school development priority. The percentage of students securing A*/B was also up on 2023 by around 5%, bringing it to just over 70%.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

EPQ results show an improving picture in terms of EPQ with the average grade rising from a C+ in 2023 to a B. Changes have already been made to the way EPQ is approached, which will impact positively on 2025 results.

The College has an overall ALPS score of 4, indicating that progress was equivalent to the top 30% of schools nationally. The improvements seen in all key measures suggests that the change of approach, with particular regard to structured independent study and proactive monitoring by teachers, including during supervised study periods, was successful. This will continue with a particular focus on wider reading. The College has invested in sophisticated tutoring software as a key part of the strategy for improving outcomes.

GCSE

	2018	2019	2020 CAGS	2021 TAGS	2022	2023	2024
Attainment							
Attainment 8 (ALL)	69.7	69.12	71.02	71.14	72.83	72.84	73.70
Pupil Premium (14)	68.8	71.38	74.20	69.20	74.56	71.57	71.57
Non-PP	69.7	69.0	70.91	71.20	72.73	72.88	73.89
SEND - E (3)	66.85	72.00	67.80	67.13	66.67	64.44	49.33
SEND - K (19)							69.26
Non-SEND			71.25	71.64	73.06	73.65	74.71
EAL (18)					72.55	74.86	80.00
Non-EAL					72.93	72.75	73.00

Progress							
Progress 8 (ALL)	0.51	0.46	0.33	0.28	0.78	0.93	1.04
Pupil Premium (14)	0.35	0.62	0.40	0.47	0.65	0.75	1.33
Non-PP	0.52	0.44	0.33	0.28	0.79	1.01	0.98
SEND - E (3)	0.28	0.48	-0.66	0.08	0.05	0.39	-0.89
SEND - K (19)							1.09
Non-SEND			0.32	0.31	0.79	1.05	1.04
EAL (18)					1.23	0.87	1.68
Non-EAL					0.75	1.01	0.93

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

%9 - 5 in En & Ma							
% 5-9 in En & Ma	96.3%	95.7%	95.9%	100%	96.4%	95%	96.6%
Pupil Premium (14)	100%	87.5%	100%	100%	100%	85.7%	85.7%
Non-PP			95.8%	100%	96.3%	95.4%	97.6%
SEND – E (3)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	33.3%
SEND – K (19)							84.2%
Non-SEND			95.7%	100%	96.3%	97%	99.4%
EAL (18)						85.7%	100%
Non-EAL						95.4%	96.3%
%7-9 in EnMa							
%7-9 in EnMa	47.8%	48.6%	54.7%	51.1%	51.5%	56.7%	57.3%
Pupil Premium (14)			40%	40%	66.7%	42.9%	57.1%
Non-PP			55.2%	51.5%	50.6%	57.2%	57.3%
SEND – E (3)			20%	43.8%	16.7%	43.8%	0
SEND – K (19)							47.4%
Non-SEND			57.2%	52.2%	52.8%	57.9%	59.6%
EAL (18)						57.1%	77.8%
Non-EAL						56.6%	55.0%

The College achieved its highest ever Attainment 8 (A8) score of 73.70, up from 72.84 last year – this is the sixth consecutive year where the A8 has gone up, including the Covid-affected examination years. The A8 score puts the College close to the top 100 schools nationally in 2023 and there is hope of being inside the top 100 in 2025.

There is improvement and successes in most other key measures. 84% of students achieved a positive progress score bringing our overall Progress 9 score to 1.00. The percentage of students attaining 9-7 in both English and maths continues to increase, up to an all-time high of 57.3%. Almost 70% of all grades achieved were at 7 or above, up from 67.3% last year.

In terms of individual successes, eight students attained the maximum 90 A8 points, meaning that they achieved an average of a grade 9 across their best 8 subjects. Indeed, one third of students attained 80 A8 points or above, meaning that they achieved an average of a grade 8 across their best 8 subjects.

Students who qualify for Pupil Premium made strong progress, achieving a P8 score of 1.33 compared to non-PP students who achieved a P8 score of 0.98.

The 2024 examination results highlighted the successes and improvements of the College at A-level and GCSE. There remains a culture of continuous improvement, though, and a strong School Improvement Plan has been developed for the academic year 2024/25. A new senior leadership team structure is in place to ensure the College is well-placed to deliver its strategic aims. The College is optimistic that it is well placed to help our young Ambrosians to achieve not just academic excellence but all round excellence, equipping them to be able to make a positive impact in the modern world, thus making our mission statement a reality.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Catholic life of the school

A summary of other highlights for the 2023-24 year is as follows:

- Weekly Mass in the Atrium every Thursday has been celebrated by a variety of local Priests. This has included Masses to celebrate end of term before Christmas, Easter, and summer, Y13 leavers, and Y6 transition day
- Edmund Rice International social justice group meets every Monday lunchtime to reflect on the relevant issues of our time in the context of Catholic social teaching and human rights
- Eco Justice Group meets every two weeks during Monday lunchtime to reflect on climate justice issues in the context of 'Laudato Si'
- Student Chaplaincy Committee, with at least two reps from every year, meets every half term to plan spiritual provision and liturgical practicalities
- Scripture Group (staff and students) meets in the Chapel every Monday lunchtime to discuss and reflect on the Gospels
- KS3 students attended Mini Dash every term and Annual Diocesan Schools' Mass in July
- Chaplain attended regular COAST meetings and half termly Diocesan Hub meetings throughout the year
- Year 13 students have attended and led St Ambrose Prep's Advocacy Group, sharing campaigns and outreach ideas
- Y9 attended retreat at Holy Angels
- Y8 attended Lenten retreat in the Chapel
- Lenten reflections delivered by Y13 students virtually during Lent 2024
- Recorded reflections delivered during Form Time and with lesson starters to mark Holy Days of Obligation
- Sacrament of Reconciliation offered in school during Lent and Advent with the support of local priests
- All students attended Stations of the Cross workshop in the Chapel during Lent
- Year 7 have been inducted into the Edmund Rice Network with workshops from the Chaplain and members of the Edmund Rice network team
- Chaplain has delivered a 'Walking in the Footsteps of Edmund' programme consisting of 8 workshops contextualising the Eight Essentials
- Chaplain attends termly catch-ups for Gaudete Trust chaplains from England via Zoom
- Chaplain has delivered 'Working in a Catholic School' CPD to all new staff including trainees
- Chaplain offers counselling and mentoring support to all year groups, working closely with the pastoral team
- Form Mass Preparation delivered every Wednesday by the Chaplain for the form who is hosting the weekly Mass, with the group led in prayer and reflection on the theme of the following day's Gospel
- Interfaith gathering held during Interfaith Week in November
- An interfaith committee has since been formed, meeting once per term and feeds into the chaplaincy committee around key dates and celebrations from the Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist calendars
- Weekly form liturgies provided by Chaplain
- Weekly form time reflections from the Chaplain for use in extended form time on Thursday mornings, designed around liturgical themes of the week
- Hymn practice every half term for all key stages led by Chaplain and Head of Music
- Thursday Thought delivered by 6th Form students to all form groups
- Student-led Rosary for every Form Group during October and May
- Termly staff spiritual conversation session (1 hour), led by the Chaplain
- Edmund Rice Opportunities presentation to all of Year 12 to encourage participation in compassionate action
- Staff chaplaincy committee meetings every half term
- Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Student Leadership Certificate delivered to all Y12 students as part of Activities carousel
- Immersion to Sierra Leone planned for February 2025 involving 12 students from Y13 and 5 staff
- Inclusivity and Advocacy Week planned and delivered by Y12 and Y13 students in May 2024
- Domestic Immersion to Belfast for ERI Group in Dec 2024 focusing on homelessness as an advocacy issue

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

- Y12 students attended a Diocesan Catholic Social Teaching Conference at Chester Catholic High in Jan 2024 organised and delivered by Chaplain
- Year 7 residential retreat to Castlerigg in October 2023 and October 2024
- Visits to multi-faith places of worship during activities week in July 2024
- Coordinated charity activity during Advent and Lent, supporting Caritas, Wythenshawe Food Bank, Cafod Gifts, and the development of St Ambrose Academy in Freetown
- Christmas carol service in Holy Angels church involving all Year 7 students
- Christmas liturgy in school for all year groups on last day of term in December
- Lenten Liturgy on the events of Holy Week involving staff and students
- ERI Youth Ambassadors' Programme for Y13 students involving peer leadership of ERI Group, training opportunities through ER Network, and visit to the UN in Geneva in January
- Staff advocacy workshops through ER Network
- Remembrance reflections during RE lessons in November, when classes visit the Chapel to add to the Remembrance Book
- Student involvement in Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (July 2024)
- Students volunteer for ER camp held in school during summer holidays serving marginalised local children
- Collaboration with Caritas for hustings in preparation of UK General Election (May 2024)
- ERI Group working towards a visit to ERI in Geneva in May 2025
- Timetable for weekly assemblies for all year groups following themes of the Liturgical Calendar.

Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the following are key performance indicators for the College:

- percentage of income received from the ESFA spent on teaching staff;
- percentage of income received from the ESFA spent on total staff costs;
- pupil numbers (current on roll, numbers sitting the entrance examination and anticipated new academic year intake);
- pictorial analysis of income spent against main sectors (staffing, curricular provisions, support provisions, occupational estates costs);
- number of months grant income coverage held in cash at bank; and
- general financial stability (in that future income matches anticipated expenditure).

The trustees have been pleased that expectations for all key performance indicators listed have been successfully met during the year.

Going concern

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

Financial review

During the year ended 31 August 2024, excluding the fixed asset fund, the resources expended of £7,605,000 (2023: £7,224,000) were matched by £7,842,000 total incoming resources (2023: £7,238,000). There was a surplus of £237,000 excluding actuarial loss at 31 August 2024 (2023: surplus of £14,000). The net book value of fixed assets was £21,483,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. During the year, assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the College.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the College annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have determined that the permitted level of free reserves for recurrent costs should be maintained in order to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies for example, such as repairs following a catastrophic failure in a building management system. The College held funds balances at 31 August 2024 of £22,524,000 (2023: £22,887,000). These funds comprise restricted fixed asset funds of £21,490,000 (2023: £22,014,000), restricted general funds of £nil (2023: £nil) and unrestricted funds of £1,034,000 (2023: £873,000). There is also a Local Government Pension Scheme reserve balance of £nil (2023: £nil). Employer contributions are reviewed in consultation with the Local Government Pension Scheme's administrators. A fund valuation is conducted annually which is used to decide future employer contribution rates.

Investment policy

Apart from the cash held for the operation of the College, St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust does not currently have any realisable investments. With respect to its cash holdings, the board of trustees has adopted a low risk strategy. In addition to the main current account, the College maintains an instant access deposit account. Suitable sweeping and switching procedures are in place at the College's bankers to ensure that adequate funds are available in the current account whilst maintaining a balance in the interest-paying deposit account as high as possible.

However, an investment policy has been approved by Governors, and the intention for 2024-25 is to build investments in order to support premises and site improvements.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The main College risk exposure is summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impacts and seriousness are considered, together with appropriate action and avoidance.

Strategic and reputation: this covers unfavourable Ofsted reports, risk of uncontrollable events and insufficient demand for College service, such as competition from other schools with similar objectives and little scope for differentiation. This also includes the capacity of existing buildings, facilities and resources to deliver teaching and learning to pupils.

Financial risk: the risk of the College not operating within its budget and running a deficit. Risks linked to income not increasing at the same rate of inflation over the coming years (in staff costs, provisions and estates maintenance). Furthermore, in connection with the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme, the trustees are comfortable with the current (and predicted) level of employer contributions the College is (or will be) required to pay.

Applications for places remain high and numbers in Sixth Form are expected to grow year on year for the next four years.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the College is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the College, including its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the College faces, especially in operational areas, for example, in relation to teaching, health and safety, educational and recreational visits and trips and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures for example recruitment of new staff, supervision of College grounds and facilities and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The College has an effective system of internal financial controls explained in more detail in the governance statement.

The principal risks affecting the College are the ability to set and achieve a balanced budget. With regards to its site and estate, the College has a robust maintenance regime and scores highly on health and safety audits. Premises and site safety risks are reviewed at every meeting of the finance committee and the Full Governing Board.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The College uses various financial instruments including cash and various items such as trade creditors that arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to raise finance for the College's operations.

Liquidity risk: the College manages its cash resources including sufficient working capital, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing. Surplus cash is invested so as to maximise interest income.

Interest rate risk: the College earns interest on cash deposits and with interest rates currently low, the trustees will take appropriate action to ensure they maximise the income from these deposits.

Credit risk: this is managed through regular contact with funders. Liquidity and cash flow risks are managed through the appropriate and carefully managed use of financial instruments with our principal bankers.

Fundraising

The majority of fundraising for the academy is carried out by the related organisations noted in the related parties and connected charities and organisations section above. These are the St Ambrose Parents Association, St Ambrose Charity and the St Ambrose Sports Committee.

Neither the academy nor its related organisations work with professional fundraisers. Funds originate from donations, profits from social events, the sale of second hand uniform or the participation in a '200' club draw. Participation is entirely voluntary.

The academy has not received any complaints from parents or the public relating to fundraising.

As outlined above, the majority of fundraising is carried out by related organisations, rather than the Trust itself. Those related organisations have made alternative plans to fundraise virtually and without the need for face to face activities.

Plans for future periods

Leaders and managers will provide a clear direction for transformational change and improvement such as: increasing pupil numbers, developing a range of external partnerships with Edmund Rice, local schools, teaching schools, the Diocese and Trafford Council; and, reviewing and developing a role in external support, preparing for future arrangements where partnership/trust working may develop.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

During the year to 31 August 2024, St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust did not hold any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of any other charitable organisation.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P C Goodwin
Chair of trustees

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Governance statement

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that St Ambrose College Edmund Rice 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 principal, 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer 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 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees is listed on the following page:

Key:

Y = Attended

N = Apologies Accepted

NA = Apologies not Accepted

NS = No Apologies sent

? = Attendance Not Marked

Blank = Not Required

CA = Consent for absence

- = Not applicable

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Governor	Governor Type	Committee/Board																							
		14 Sep 2023	21 Sep 2023	01 Nov 2023	02 Nov 2023	09 Nov 2023	24 Nov 2023	07 Dec 2023	07 Dec 2023	12 Dec 2023	14 Dec 2023	14 Dec 2023	25 Jan 2024	01 Feb 2024	22 Feb 2024	06 Mar 2024	21 Mar 2024	17 Apr 2024	25 Apr 2024	23 May 2024	05 Jun 2024	13 Jun 2024	03 Jul 2024	11 Jul 2024	
Matthew Arthur	Foundation governor		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fr Jonathan Brandon	Foundation governor		Y								Y	Y				N									N
Mrs Shilpa Chauhan	Parent governor		Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	N			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kieren Done	Other	Y	Y				Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Peter Goodwin	Foundation governor		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	N		Y			Y
Mr Ahmed Lawal	Parent governor	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Mr Adrian Lewis	Foundation governor	Y	Y			N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Ms Roisin Maguire	Other									N	N					N									Y
Mr Andrew McHale	Co-opted governor	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	?	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Mr Dermot Rainey	Principal	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	?	Y	Y	Y
Mr Peter Riley	Foundation governor	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Helen Rose	Foundation governor	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dr Richard Simpson	Foundation governor		Y		Y					Y	Y	Y				Y		Y	Y						Y
Rosalyn Tavernor	Foundation governor		Y		Y					Y	Y	Y				Y		Y	Y						Y

Conflicts of interest

All Governors are required to declare any conflicts of interest. A record is published on the school website. The register of interests is consulted and reviewed with purchases which are approved by Governors, as outlined in the scheme of delegation.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Governance reviews

Governors at St Ambrose College carried out a comprehensive self-review throughout the year. It included a skills audit using the NGA tool to identify gaps in competencies related to the goals set for the Board, personality questionnaire for new governors to foster effective team building, a 360-degree review of the Chair to allow anonymous feedback on the Chair's effectiveness, and one-to-one discussions with the Chair and an Away Day to allow governor feedback on the effectiveness of the Board, foster collective learning and team building. The Board agreed that it had achieved its core aims of ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding executive leaders to account; overseeing financial performance; and stakeholder engagement. Actions included recruitment of parent governors, updating the strategic vision and training on the role of the governor on special committees.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- setting a staff structure that maximises efficiencies to be had in delivering programmes of study;
- working together with energy consultants to minimise energy consumption; and
- re-negotiating agreements for insurance, energy and IT provision.

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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Hallidays as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the College's financial systems. On a quarterly basis, the internal auditor reports to the finance committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing of payroll systems, testing of purchase systems and testing of financial controls systems such as bank reconciliations. The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the 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 work of the external auditor.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the internal auditor and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P C Goodwin
Chair of trustees

.....
D Rainey
Accounting officer

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

For the year ended 31 August 2024

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

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

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

.....
D Rainey
Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2024

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P C Goodwin
Chair of trustees

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Independent auditor's report

To the members of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of matter - financial statements prepared on a basis other than going concern

We draw attention to Note 1.2 to the financial statements which explains that the trustees intend to transfer the trade, assets and liabilities of the academy trust within the next 12 months to the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust (company number: 15731145). Following the transfer, it is the intention of the trustees to dissolve the charitable company, and therefore do not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern as described in Note 1.2.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Independent auditor's report (continued)

To the members of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust For the year ended 31 August 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Independent auditor's report (continued)

To the members of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

For the year ended 31 August 2024

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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

Use of our report

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

.....
Candice Beynon FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of DJH Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Bridge House
Ashley Road
Hale
Altrincham
WA14 2UT

Date:

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity

To St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and The Education and Skills Funding Agency

For the year ended 31 August 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 October 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 11 July 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity (continued)

To St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and The Education and Skills Funding Agency

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

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.

.....
DJH Audit Limited
Reporting Accountant

Dated:

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds: General £(000)	Fixed asset £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	51	24	75	88
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	6,649	-	6,649	6,173
Other trading activities	5	1,118	-	-	1,118	1,031
Investments	6	24	-	-	24	13
Total		<u>1,142</u>	<u>6,700</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7,866</u>	<u>7,305</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	9	-	-	9	8
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	627	6,969	588	8,184	7,815
Total	7	<u>636</u>	<u>6,969</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>8,193</u>	<u>7,823</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		506	(269)	(564)	(327)	(518)
Transfers between funds	16	(345)	305	40	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(36)	-	(36)	(232)
Net movement in funds		161	-	(524)	(363)	(750)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,014</u>	<u>22,887</u>	<u>23,637</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,034</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,490</u>	<u>22,524</u>	<u>22,887</u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Statement of financial activities (continued) including income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	21	67	88
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	6,173	-	6,173
Other trading activities	5	1,025	6	-	1,031
Investments	6	13	-	-	13
Total		1,038	6,200	67	7,305
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	8	-	-	8
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	741	6,475	599	7,815
Total	7	749	6,475	599	7,823
Net income/(expenditure)		289	(275)	(532)	(518)
Transfers between funds	16	(230)	216	14	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(232)	-	(232)
Net movement in funds		59	(291)	(518)	(750)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		814	291	22,532	23,637
Total funds carried forward		873	-	22,014	22,887

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Balance sheet

As at 31 August 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		21,483		22,014
Current assets					
Debtors	13	226		265	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,262		1,038	
		<u>1,488</u>		<u>1,303</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(447)		(430)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			1,041		873
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Net assets excluding pension asset			22,524		22,887
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total net assets			22,524		22,887
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			21,490		22,014
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total restricted funds			21,490		22,014
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Unrestricted income funds	16		1,034		873
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total funds			22,524		22,887
			<u></u>		<u></u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
P C Goodwin
Chair of trustees

Company registration number 07827963 (England and Wales)

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £(000)	£(000)	2023 £(000)	£(000)
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19		233		(74)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		24		13	
Capital grants from DfE Group		24		67	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(57)		(96)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(9)		(16)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			224		(90)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,038		1,128
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,262		1,038
Relating to:					
Bank and cash balances			635		310
Short term deposits			627		728

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust is expected to transfer the trade, assets and liabilities of the academy trust to the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust (company number: 15731145), in the first half of 2025. Following the completion of the transfer, the trustees of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust intend to dissolve the company. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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 so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line (buildings), 10% straight line (property improvements) and 0.8% straight line (land)
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.11 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 the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Department for Education or other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.12 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 trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 24.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact on 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.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees have considered the apportionment of depreciation between direct and support costs. The majority of fixed assets are almost entirely used for the provision of education and only a small part for support services. Therefore a 85% direct cost and 15% support cost apportionment is considered appropriate.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Donations	-	51	51	21
Capital grants	-	24	24	67
	—	—	—	—
	-	75	75	88
	==	==	==	==

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	4,693	4,693	4,553
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Recovery premium	-	16	16	14
- Pupil premium	-	66	66	57
- Teachers pay grant	-	128	128	1
- Teachers pension grant	-	112	112	51
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	138
- MSAG funding	-	157	157	65
- Others	-	(5)	(5)	13
- 16-19 funding	-	1,451	1,451	1,256
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,618</u>	<u>6,618</u>	<u>6,148</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	31	31	25
	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>6,649</u>	<u>6,649</u>	<u>6,173</u>

The academy trust received £31,000 (2023: £25,000) from the local authority in the year for high needs funding.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to the grants in the year.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Catering income	521	-	521	441
Other income	597	-	597	590
	<u>1,118</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,118</u>	<u>1,031</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Short term deposits	24	-	24	13
	<u>24</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £(000)	Non-pay expenditure Premises £(000)	Other £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	9	9	8
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	4,561	530	769	5,860	5,588
- Allocated support costs	765	1,022	537	2,324	2,227
	<u>5,326</u>	<u>1,552</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>8,193</u>	<u>7,823</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £(000)	2023 £(000)
Operating lease rentals	19	12
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	588	599
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	10	9
- Other services	1	1
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(31)	(11)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2024 £(000)	Total 2023 £(000)
Direct costs				
Educational operations	319	5,541	5,860	5,588
Support costs				
Educational operations	308	2,016	2,324	2,227
	<u>627</u>	<u>7,557</u>	<u>8,184</u>	<u>7,815</u>

Analysis of costs

	2024 £(000)	2023 £(000)
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	4,610	4,212
Staff development	15	-
Depreciation	530	542
Educational supplies and services	513	664
Examination fees	164	150
Other direct costs	28	20
	<u>5,860</u>	<u>5,588</u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

8 Charitable activities	(Continued)	
Support costs		
Support staff costs	765	703
Depreciation	58	57
Technology costs	146	112
Recruitment and support	4	5
Maintenance of premises and equipment	186	183
Cleaning	169	188
Energy costs	449	499
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	135	87
Insurance	25	22
Catering	308	288
Net interest on defined benefit pension scheme liability	(31)	(11)
Legal costs	29	32
Other support costs	54	40
Governance costs	27	22
	<u>2,324</u>	<u>2,227</u>
	<u><u>2,324</u></u>	<u><u>2,227</u></u>
 9 Staff		
Staff costs and employee benefits		
Staff costs during the year were:		
	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Wages and salaries	3,966	3,569
Social security costs	424	374
Pension costs	936	852
	<u>5,326</u>	<u>4,795</u>
Staff costs - employees	5,326	4,795
Staff restructuring costs	-	22
	<u>5,326</u>	<u>4,817</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	64	98
	<u>5,390</u>	<u>4,915</u>
	<u><u>5,390</u></u>	<u><u>4,915</u></u>
 Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	22
	<u>-</u>	<u>22</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>22</u></u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

9 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	59	58
Administration and support	39	36
Management	7	6
	<u>105</u>	<u>100</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	2
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £633,000 (2023 £576,000).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

D Rainey (principal and trustee):	
Remuneration:	£105,001 - £110,000 (2023: £95,001 - £100,000)
Employer's pension contributions:	£25,001 - £30,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil were reimbursed to trustees (2023: £436 reimbursed to 1 trustee).

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

11 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 trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	27,678	1,589	1,158	60	30,485
Additions	-	43	14	-	57
At 31 August 2024	27,678	1,632	1,172	60	30,542
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	5,831	1,496	1,090	54	8,471
Charge for the year	532	35	19	2	588
At 31 August 2024	6,363	1,531	1,109	56	9,059
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	21,315	101	63	4	21,483
At 31 August 2023	21,847	93	68	6	22,014

Buildings to the value of £27,520,000 are included in fixed assets at depreciated replacement cost following a professional valuation on 30 October 2012 by FHP. The total land value included is £2,492,500.

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Trade debtors	19	4
VAT recoverable	53	168
Prepayments and accrued income	154	93
	226	265

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Trade creditors	1	3
Other taxation and social security	70	93
ESFA creditors	6	8
Other creditors	136	105
Accruals and deferred income	234	221
	<u>447</u>	<u>430</u>

15 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	172	177
	<u>172</u>	<u>177</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	177	199
Released from previous years	(177)	(199)
Resources deferred in the year	172	177
	<u>172</u>	<u>177</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	172	177

Included in deferred income at 31 August 2024 is amounts relating to £168,000 of trip income and £4,000 of other income (2023: £151,000 of trip income and £26,000 other income).

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £(000)	Income £(000)	Expenditure £(000)	Gains, losses and transfers £(000)	Balance at 31 August 2024 £(000)
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,693	(4,998)	305	-
Recovery premium	-	16	(16)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	66	(66)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,843	(1,843)	-	-
Other government grants	-	31	(31)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	51	(51)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	36	(36)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,700</u>	<u>(6,969)</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	21,780	-	(532)	-	21,248
DfE group capital grants	179	24	(38)	-	165
Capital expenditure from GAG	50	-	(15)	40	75
Donated assets	2	-	(1)	-	1
Private sector capital sponsorship	3	-	(2)	-	1
	<u>22,014</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>(588)</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>21,490</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>22,014</u>	<u>6,724</u>	<u>(7,557)</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>21,490</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	873	1,142	(636)	(345)	1,034
	<u>873</u>	<u>1,142</u>	<u>(636)</u>	<u>(345)</u>	<u>1,034</u>
Total funds	<u>22,887</u>	<u>7,866</u>	<u>(8,193)</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>22,524</u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objects of the academy and are restricted to both the day to day running of the academy and capital expenditure.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

The pension value as at 31 August 2024 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset of £759,000 as at 31 August 2024. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values in St Ambrose College have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis that the asset is not deemed to be realisable.

The transfer from unrestricted funds of £345,000 to restricted general funds is to cover a shortfall of incoming resources.

The transfer from restricted general funds of £40,000 to restricted fixed asset funds is to cover the cost of additions not covered by capital grants. The £7,000 excess of the fixed assets fund over the fixed assets net book value represents unspent DFC grant.

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.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £(000)	Income £(000)	Expenditure £(000)	Gains, losses and transfers £(000)	Balance at 31 August 2023 £(000)
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,553	(4,769)	216	-
Recovery premium		14	(14)		
Pupil premium	-	57	(57)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,524	(1,524)	-	-
Other government grants	-	25	(25)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	27	(27)	-	-
Pension reserve	291	-	(59)	(232)	-
	<u>291</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>(6,475)</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	22,337	-	(557)	-	21,780
DfE group capital grants	140	67	(28)	-	179
Capital expenditure from GAG	46	-	(10)	14	50
Donated assets	3	-	(1)	-	2
Private sector capital sponsorship	6	-	(3)	-	3
	<u>22,532</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>(599)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22,014</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>22,823</u>	<u>6,267</u>	<u>(7,074)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>22,014</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>814</u>	<u>1,038</u>	<u>(749)</u>	<u>(230)</u>	<u>873</u>
Total funds	<u>23,637</u>	<u>7,305</u>	<u>(7,823)</u>	<u>(232)</u>	<u>22,887</u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £(000)	Restricted funds: General £(000)	Fixed asset £(000)	Total Funds £(000)
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,483	21,483
Current assets	1,481	-	7	1,488
Current liabilities	(447)	-	-	(447)
Total net assets	1,034	-	21,490	22,524
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,014	22,014
Current assets	873	430	-	1,303
Current liabilities	-	(430)	-	(430)
Total net assets	873	-	22,014	22,887

18 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 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £114,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £91,000) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation 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 was implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £774,000 (2023: £642,000).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.6% for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Employer's contributions	167	144
Employees' contributions	54	49
	—	—
Total contributions	221	193
	==	==

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.2
	<u> </u>	<u> </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
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.0	20.1
- Females	24.4	24.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.3	21.4
- Females	25.6	25.7
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Sensitivity analysis

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

	Approximate increase to Employer Liability (%)	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	68
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	116
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	2
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	68

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024	2023
	Fair value £(000)	Fair value £(000)
Equities	2,524	2,217
Bonds	549	443
Property	293	253
Other assets	293	254
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total market value of assets	3,659	3,167
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £305,000 (2023: £300,000).

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

18 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
Current service cost	162	214
Interest income	(169)	(118)
Interest cost	138	107
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total amount recognised	131	203
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
At 1 September 2023	3,167	2,417
Current service cost	162	214
Interest cost	138	107
Employee contributions	54	49
Actuarial loss	172	414
Benefits paid	(34)	(34)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	3,659	3,167
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2024	2023
	£(000)	£(000)
At 1 September 2023	3,167	2,708
Interest income	169	118
Actuarial gain	136	182
Employer contributions	167	144
Employee contributions	54	49
Benefits paid	(34)	(34)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	3,659	3,167
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The pension value as at 31 August 2024 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset of £759,000 as at 31 August 2024. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values in St Ambrose College have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis that the academy trust has minimum funding requirements existing for future service. This has reduced the pension fund accordingly to nil.

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

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

	Notes	2024 £(000)	2023 £(000)
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(327)	(518)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(24)	(67)
Investment income receivable	6	(24)	(13)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	(5)	70
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18	(31)	(11)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		588	599
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		39	(89)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		17	(45)
		<u>233</u>	<u>(74)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u><u>233</u></u>	<u><u>(74)</u></u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £(000)	Cash flows £(000)	31 August 2024 £(000)
Cash	310	325	635
Cash equivalents	728	(101)	627
	<u>1,038</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>1,262</u>
	<u><u>1,038</u></u>	<u><u>224</u></u>	<u><u>1,262</u></u>

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2024 £(000)	2023 £(000)
Amounts due within one year	15	10
Amounts due in two and five years	7	13
	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
	<u><u>22</u></u>	<u><u>23</u></u>

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2024

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted with the requirements of the ATH and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

T Murray, a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, was employed by the academy trust from 1 November 2022 as a chaplain. T Murray's appointment was made in open competition. T Murray is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a member.

The academy entered into a 125 year lease with the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Under the terms of the lease the Academy pays a rental of £27,600 per annum for the 10 year period from 1 May 2012. From 1 May 2022 the rental paid reverted to a peppercorn. The academy received £nil (2023: £6,000) as donation from the Congregation of Christian Brothers. There were no amounts owed or outstanding from the Congregation of Christian Brothers at year end (2023: £nil).

St Ambrose Preparatory School and St Ambrose College have a common trustee and member, respectively, Brother D Sassi. The academy received £6,000 (2023: £nil) from St Ambrose Preparatory School as contributions for road repairs and £1,556 (2023: £nil) for use of the school's mini-bus. At the balance sheet date, £5,000 (2023: £nil) was owed to the academy trust.

The academy received £45,000 (2023: £nil) from St Ambrose College Charity. No amounts were receivable or payable to the Charity as at the balance sheet date (2023: £nil).

23 Members' liability

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

24 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the academy trust received £17,164 and disbursed £8,381 from the fund. As at 31 August 2024, the cumulative unspent 16-19 bursary fund is £22,857, of which £5,693 relates to undistributed funding that is repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 are £14,074 received, £10,676 disbursed, total cumulative unspent fund of £22,125 of which £8,051 was repayable to ESFA.