

Company registration number: 01961978

Charity registration number: 293360

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

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Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr S Honeywill, Chair of Trustees Mrs J Jones Mr J P Andrews
Charity Registration Number	293360
Company Registration Number	01961978
Registered Office	The Hearne 12 Hearne Road Charlton Kings Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL53 8RD
Independent Examiners	Four Fifty Partnership Four Fifty Partnership 34 Boulevard Weston-super-Mare Somerset BS23 1NF
Bankers	HSBC 109 Bath Road Cheltenham GL54 7RA
Solicitors:	Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ellenborough House Wellington Street Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 1YD

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Trustees Report

The Trustees of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust ("The Trust") present their report and financial statements for the 16 month period ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the trust deed and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Constitution and objects

The Charity changed its name from St Edwards School Cheltenham Trust to Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd in February 2022. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 01961978); a charity registered with the Charity Commission (number 293360) and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, most recently updated 11 October 2022.

The Trust's Objects and principal activities, as set out in the Memorandum of Association (as amended by Special Resolution on 21 February 2022), are to promote and provide for such charitable works wheresoever and whatsoever as to advance the Roman Catholic religion, and, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing to advance Roman Catholic independent education for the public benefit in or near Cheltenham PROVIDED THAT in the memorandum the expression "Roman Catholic" shall indicate communion with the "See of Rome".

In furtherance to these Objects for the public benefit the Trust, which operated two schools until 16 February 2022 (one Senior and one Preparatory) known collectively as St Edward's Cheltenham, has established and administers bursaries, grants, awards and other benefactions, and acts as the Trustee and manager of property, endowments, bequests and gifts given or established in pursuance of these Objects.

Aims and objectives

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Aims

The Trust's aims for the public benefit to 16 February 2022 were:

- to provide a first class independent education within a Christian ethos. St Edward's was a Roman Catholic foundation and warmly welcomed students of other denominations and creeds or none, who were willing to support the Christian ethos of the Schools;
- to offer pupils a range of opportunities so that they could achieve to the best of their ability within a framework of shared values and standards;

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Trustees Report

- to value and nurture pupils as individuals, giving them a sense of their own self-worth and of the value of service to others, thus preparing them for life beyond school; and
- to establish the Schools as a community in which there were strong and active partnerships between parents and the Schools and between the local community and the Schools.

The Board is mindful of the long-standing need to provide public benefit and of the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Primary objectives

The primary objectives of the Trust to fulfil these aims were:

- to maintain the aspiration of high standards in academic performance and extra-curricular activities whilst preserving a healthy balance between the two;
- to widen access to the education provided by the Trust through the provision of financial support for children whose parents were unable to afford the full fees and also through a range of projects and activities in the local community;
- to provide appropriate teaching resources throughout the Schools;
- to provide an effective management structure and the administrative and logistic framework necessary to meet the needs of staff and pupils alike;
- to provide an environment which promoted and developed independent learning and supported pupils in the achievement of their individual potential.

The primary objectives were reviewed regularly and their success measured through regular reporting to Trustees by the Senior Management Team.

The primary aim of the Trust going forward is to promote and provide for such charitable works to advance the Roman Catholic religion and in particular to advance Roman Catholic independent education for the public benefit in or near Cheltenham. This is predominately to be in the form of financial assistance with school fees, such as means tested bursaries and scholarships or other school related materials or other assistance to children in Catholic education, for example, funding school projects that will benefit multiple pupils.

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Trustees Report

Structure, governance and management

There was one Board of Trustees for the two Schools through to 16 February 2022. Details of the current members of the Board of Trustees, together with principal advisers, are given on page one.

There were seven members of the Board of Trustees until the sale of the schools. This had reduced to four members at the period end. The numbers in brackets refer to the sub-committees which each Trustee was a member of as explained below.

Dr S Honeywill (1,2,3,4)

Mr A Newland (1,3, Chair of Health and Safety & Finance and General Purposes committees) (Resigned 11 February 2022)

Mr P Potts (2, Chair of Land and Premises committee) (Resigned 4 June 2024)

Mrs C Findlay (1) (Resigned 11 February 2022)

Mrs J Jones (3, Chair of Education and Ethos committee)

Mrs J Penny (1) (Resigned 11 February 2022)

Dr R Cooper (resigned 10 February 2022)

Fr P O'Keeffe O Carm. Ex-Officio

Mr John Andrews (Appointed 30 August 2022)

The following Trustees' sub-committees were in existence prior to 16 February 2022:

1. Finance and General Purposes committee
2. Land and Premises committee
3. Health and Safety committee
4. Education and Ethos committee

The Trustees were legally responsible for the overall management and control of both Schools up to 16 February 2022. They met at least four times a year. The work of implementing the policies was delegated to the following committees, which have since been dissolved;

- The Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) scrutinised the management accounts and forecasts throughout the year and made recommendations to the Board about any capital expenditure. They recommended the audited financial statements and annual report for approval by the Trustees. They also oversaw other matters such as the review of school fees, insurance, pay, marketing and staffing. The Finance Committee was chaired by Mr Andrew Newland.

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- The Health and Safety Committee oversaw all matters relating to Health and Safety and Safeguarding. These included safeguarding policies, staff code of conduct, pupil behaviour, e-safety, information technology, data protection, cybersecurity and review of and implementation of recommendations from Health and Safety and Fire Safety audits. It was chaired by Mr Andrew Newland.
- The Education and Ethos Committee oversaw all matters relating to the pastoral and academic issues across both schools, including provision for Individual learning needs, able, gifted and talented students, those with English as an additional language and overseas students. The Committee also ensured that the Catholic Foundation of the Trust was reflected in the curriculum. The Education and Ethos Committee was chaired by Mrs Jane Jones.
- The Land and Premises committee provided oversight of the programme of maintenance work for the schools premises, accessibility arrangements for pupils and visitors and made recommendations for capital expenditure on larger projects. The committee was chaired by Mr Paul Potts.

The day to day running of the Schools was delegated to the Heads and Bursar, supported by their Senior Management Teams and a Joint Management Committee. The Heads and Bursar attended board and committee meetings of the Trustees. The day to day running of the Trust from 16 February 2022 is carried out by the remaining Trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

New Trustees are elected on the basis of nominations from the Trustees based on the candidates' professional qualities, experience, personal competence and local availability.

Induction and training of Trustees

The Trustees attend periodic training course to ensure that they stay up to date on current Governance and compliance issues. A budget is set aside every year to support the continued professional development of the Trustees.

Employment policy

The Trust endeavoured to recruit the most suitable staff for any post to ensure the highest standards were maintained throughout the Schools, within both teaching and support staff. Whilst reflecting its role as a Catholic school it also pursued policies as an equal opportunities employer. Full and fair consideration was given to job applications from disabled persons and due consideration was given to their training and employment needs. Since the transfer of the Schools on 16 February 2022, the Trust has no employees.

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Key management personnel

The Trustees considered that the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of The Trust comprised the Key Management Personnel up to 16 February 2022 when the Schools joined the Alpha Schools Group. The JMC comprised of the Head Teacher of the Senior School, the Head Teacher of the Preparatory School, the Deputy Head Teachers of the Senior School, the Deputy Head and Assistant Head of the Preparatory School, the Bursar and the Director of Marketing & Admissions.

Trustees give their time freely and do not receive any remuneration. The pay and remuneration of the JMC was determined by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and was reviewed annually. A number of criteria were used in determining pay:

- The financial performance of the Trust against sector benchmarks;
- The nature of the role and responsibilities;
- The individual's performance;
- Competitor salaries;
- The sector average for comparable positions;
- Inflation and the cost of living.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Trust's vision was to:

- Provide excellent teaching, learning and pastoral care;
- Provide a wealth of opportunities both curricular and extra-curricular;
- Build a caring community based on Christian values;
- Encourage pupils to be the best they can be so that we help them to develop their untapped potential.

Going forward the Trust's vision is to broaden opportunities to families who would otherwise not be able to afford independent Catholic education in the Cheltenham area.

During the period under review the charity has made one grant to further its aims and objectives.

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Fundraising

After 16 Feb 2022, the Trustees sought professional advice regarding the investment of the bulk of the remaining capital for income and engaged LGT Vestra to manage the investment monies.

The Trust did not use any professional fundraising partners in the year as all fundraising activities were small scale focusing on raising funds for other charities from the schools' communities. Neither the Trust nor anyone acting on behalf of the Trust has voluntarily subscribed to fundraising standards. No complaints were received in the year about any of the Trust's fundraising activities. The Trust ensures that vulnerable people and other members of the public are protected from behaviour which is unreasonably intrusive, persistent and pressured. The Trust does not consider this type of behaviour a high-risk area but will continue to monitor fundraising activities.

Public benefit

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd remains committed to the aim of providing public benefit in accordance with its founding principles. The Trustees continue to consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trust fulfils its obligations under this Act through the availability of bursaries and scholarships.

During the period ended 31 December 2023, the Trust made a grant of £15,000 to support a Performing Arts educational project at St Edward's Senior School.

Facilities and community links

During the period prior to the transfer of the school, the Trust made its facilities available to local community groups including sport (cricket, swimming, rugby, football, tennis and hockey), drama and music groups. The Trust valued its links with the local community.

Going forward the Trust will continue to keep close links with the local community through the availability of fee assistance to local families.

Financial review

As the first period in which the charity did not operate as a school the financial position has changed significantly. During the 16 month period the charity has received £55,989 of income from its investments, as well as donations of £85,035. After expenditure there was an operating profit of £47,406 and including fair value adjustments on the investments net funds increased by £801,267.

As a result the net assets of the charity have increased from £1,336,554 to £2,137,820.

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Reserves level and policy

Following the transfer of the schools, the Trust's activities are now those of holding investments. The Trust's unrestricted funds stood at £2,135k (£1,334k in 2023) which are also free reserves of the Trust.

Total reserves stood at £2,138k (2022: £1,337k).

The Trust's reserves policy is currently being reviewed following the sale of the Schools but, remains in place to assist Catholic education in the local area.

The Trustees will continue to review the reserves position annually.

Going concern

St Edward's School joined the Alpha Schools Group on 16th February 2022.

The Trust will continue to operate under a different name as Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust (GCET). GCET will continue to support Catholic education by providing bursary assistance to children who would not otherwise be able to afford independent school fees. The trust will also support by direct grant activities and projects which benefit groups of children in the context of catholic education in Gloucestershire.

The Trust now has a significantly reduced overhead rate with minimum overhead expenditure forecast going forwards. The Trust will work within its working capital requirements to grant bursaries in future periods.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They continue to believe the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in preparing the annual financial statements.

Risk management

The Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. The Trustee Body has ultimate responsibility for managing any risks faced by the Trust.

The risk management process and the resulting Report identifies risks, assesses their impact and likelihood and, where necessary, recommends controls to mitigate and monitor those risks. The generic controls used by the Trust to minimise risk include:

- detailed terms of reference together with formal agendas for Committee and Board activity;

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- comprehensive budgeting and management accounting;
- established organisational structures and lines of reporting;
- formal written policies including clear authorisation and approval levels;
- vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees considered risks in the following categories:

- Governance;
The maintenance of an effective Board of Governors and Senior leadership team
- Operational;
Compliance with regulatory requirements of Health & Safety legislation, employment law and its regulators including the Independent Schools Inspectorate and Charity Commission.
- Financial;
Compliance with borrowing covenants and maintaining liquidity.
- Public relations/reputation;
Compliance with all regulatory requirements and maintaining an effective marketing strategy.

Plans for future periods

We use historical data and trends (along with other information gathering and research) as the basis for forecasting pupil numbers. The number of pupils at the school dictates the allocation of resources and so our long term strategic plan and forecasts may change depending on factors such as uncertainty in the wider economy or Government imposed statutory or regulatory changes.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 25/07/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Dr S Honeywill
Chair of Trustees

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

Approved by the Trustees of the charity on 25/09/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Dr S Honeywill
Chair of Trustees

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement - matter of concern identified

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination for the period ended 31 December 2023. However, the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022 were subject to audit and the audit report thereon was qualified. I have reproduced an extract of that audit opinion to assist the users of these financial statements.

"As set out in the Trustees report the schools controlled by the Trust were sold on 16 February 2022. As part of the sale many of the financial records of the trust including details of fees, and payroll records were transferred to the purchaser. The purchaser has not made these available to the Trust for the purpose of this audit and as a result we have been unable to substantiate the fee income of £3,318,528 or the payroll costs of £2,548,299. There were no alternative audit procedures we were able to undertake to substantiate these amounts. As a consequence, we were unable to determine whether an adjustment to these amounts were necessary."

I confirm that no other matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd ('the Company')

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Four Fifty Partnership Ltd

.....
Joy R Boswell
Four Fifty Partnership
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
34 Boulevard
Weston-super-Mare
Somerset
BS23 1NF

Date: *27 September 2024* ,
.....

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	5	85,035	-	85,035
Investment income	8	12,441	-	12,441
Other income	9	43,548	-	43,548
Total income		141,024	-	141,024
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(6,645)	-	(6,645)
Charitable activities	10	(87,661)	-	(87,661)
Other expenditure		688	-	688
Total expenditure		(93,618)	-	(93,618)
Net income		47,406	-	47,406
Other recognised gains and losses				
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		753,861	-	753,861
Net movement in funds		801,267	-	801,267
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		1,333,553	3,000	1,336,553
Total funds carried forward		2,134,820	3,000	2,137,820

All of the charity's activities derive from discontinued operations following the disposal of the trade dated the 16 February 2022 with Alpha Schools. All activities were transferred as of 16 February 2022.

The notes on pages 18 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	5	(769)	-	(769)
Charitable activities	6	3,318,528	-	3,318,528
Other trading activities	7	161,729	-	161,729
Investment income	8	684	-	684
Other income	9	45,108	-	45,108
Total income		3,525,280	-	3,525,280
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	10	(4,181,569)	-	(4,181,569)
Other expenditure		(1,108,022)	-	(1,108,022)
Total expenditure		(5,289,591)	-	(5,289,591)
Net expenditure		(1,764,311)	-	(1,764,311)
Net movement in funds		(1,764,311)	-	(1,764,311)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		3,097,865	3,000	3,100,865
Total funds carried forward		1,333,554	3,000	1,336,554

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 18 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

**(Registration number: 01961978)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	15	2,024,073	263,938
Current assets			
Debtors	16	3,090	8,178
Cash at bank and in hand	17	265,808	1,599,877
		<u>268,898</u>	<u>1,608,055</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(155,151)</u>	<u>(535,439)</u>
Net current assets		<u>113,747</u>	<u>1,072,616</u>
Net assets		<u>2,137,820</u>	<u>1,336,554</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		3,000	3,000
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>2,134,820</u>	<u>1,333,554</u>
Total funds		<u>2,137,820</u>	<u>1,336,554</u>

For the financial period ending 31 December 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the period in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

(Registration number: 01961978)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

The financial statements on pages 14 to 34 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 25/09/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

..........

Dr S Honeywill
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 18 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Company Information

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd is a registered charity with the Charities Commission England and Wales (charity number: 293360) and is incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee (company number: 01961978). The address of its registered office is Cirencester Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8EY.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – 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) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

St Edward's School joined the Alpha Schools Group on 16 February 2022. Alpha Schools Group have taken over the ownership and management of the Schools from this date and will provide a substantial investment in the Schools' facilities over the next three years.

The Trust continues to operate as Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust (GCET). GCET will continue to support Catholic education by providing bursary assistance to children who would not otherwise be able to afford independent school fees.

The Trust now has a significantly reduced overhead rate with minimum overhead expenditure forecast going forwards. The Trust will work within its working capital requirements to grant bursaries in future periods.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They continue to believe the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in preparing the annual financial statements.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Incoming resources

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the services are provided and are stated after deducting allowances, scholarships and other remissions granted by the School.

All other income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the School has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the School has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Where entitlements occur before income is received the income is accrued. Where income is received in advance of the School having entitlement to the funds the income is deferred.

Resources expended

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Expenditure is allocated to expense headings on a direct cost basis, with staff costs being allocated according to the estimated time spent by staff working in relevant departments. Charitable activities include all costs related to the running of the School.

The irrecoverable VAT element is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Tax status

The Trust is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Tangible fixed assets

In common with other educational establishments the Trust has historically written off all expenditure on tangible assets during the year of purchase (prior to 1997).

The original School buildings were predominantly listed properties and were carried at the amount of the original merger cost, as the Trustees considered it was not appropriate to apply a current valuation to such properties. The Trust was responsible for keeping these properties in a fit and useful condition and these costs are written off as incurred, and hence no depreciation is charged on these properties.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and equipment	10% - 33% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% straight line
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10% - 20% straight line
Freehold buildings	0% - 2% straight line or the expected remaining life of the building

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

The freehold land and buildings of the School were revalued in 1980. The governors are of the opinion that the current open market value on an existing use basis is in excess of book value.

The School has taken advantage of the transitional arrangements of FRS 102 - Section 17 Property, Plant and Equipment not to update its valuation of land and buildings.

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the period, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the period and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the period end.

Trade debtors

Short term debtors are initially measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions.

Trade creditors

Short term creditors are initially measured at the transaction price.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation that commits the Trust to the obligation.

Financial Instruments

Classification

The Trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Finance and operating leases

Where the Trust has entered into finance leases or hire purchase contracts, the obligations to the lessor are shown within creditors and the rights in the corresponding assets are treated in the same way as owned fixed rights. Leases are regarded as finance leases where their terms transfer to the lessee substantially all the benefits and burdens of ownership other than the right to legal title.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Redundancy costs

Redundancy and termination costs are accounted for on an accruals basis when commitment to terminate a post on the grounds of redundancy has been made.

Pensions

The Trust contributed to the Teachers' Pension Defined Benefits Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary as advised to the Board by the Scheme Administrator. The scheme is a multi-employer pension scheme, and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme, which are attributable to the Trust. In accordance with FRS 102 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. The Trust also contributes to personal pension schemes for non-teaching staff and these contributions are accrued accordingly. Pension costs are allocated to the unrestricted fund due to this being the fund in which staff costs are paid from.

Charitable funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Trust and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Funds donated for purposes restricted by the wishes of the donor are taken to restricted funds, where these wishes are legally binding on the Trustees.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Deposits

The Trustees have reviewed the contract terms under which pupil fee deposits are held by the Trust. Although under normal circumstances these will be repaid in future years when the pupils complete their education at the School, pupils can leave at earlier dates. The Trust does not therefore have an unconditional right to retain the individual deposits for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date and, in line with the requirements in FRS 102, the balance of deposits held have been included within current liabilities.

All fee deposits held were transferred to Alpha Schools Group on 16 February 2022.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charges for the tangible assets are sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation, and the physical condition of the assets. See note 15 for the carrying amount of the tangible assets and note 2.6 for the useful lives for each class of asset.

Impairment of debtors

The Trust makes an estimate of the recoverable value of fee and other debtors. When assessing impairment of fee and other debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. See note 16 for the net carrying amount of the debtors and associated impairment provision.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

3 Discontinued operations

On 16 February 2022, the Trust disposed of the Schools trade to Alpha Schools Group for consideration of £2,500,000. Committed capital works are to be expended on the St Edwards Schools over a period of 3 years of £2,700,000.

4 Contingent assets

Per the agreement with Alpha Schools Group, a sum of £2,700,000 was to be invested into the capital of the School over a period of 3 years from the 16 February 2022, with at least 50% of this sum (£1,350,000) being invested in the first 18 months.

These improvements are to focus on improving the education provided across the School.

As of the most recent update provided on 8 February 2024, Alpha Schools Group had spent £760,304.

There is also an overage payment due if Alpha Schools Group disposes, in part or as a whole, any parts of the property that was transferred on disposal.

If any property is disposed within 5 years of 16 February 2022, 50% of the proceeds shall be payable to the Trust. This percentage reduces by 5% each year following this first 5 years.

5 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 31 December 2023 £	Total Year ended 31 August 2022 £
Donations	<u>85,035</u>	<u>85,035</u>	<u>(769)</u>
	<u>85,035</u>	<u>85,035</u>	<u>(769)</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

6 Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fee income	-	<u>3,318,528</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross fees	-	3,902,576
Less: total scholarships, bursaries and fee assistance	-	<u>(584,048)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,318,528</u>

7 Charitable activities - Extras income

	2023	2022
	£	£
School trips	-	53,184
Application fees	-	8,553
Special needs fees	-	71,604
Examination fees	-	(4,607)
Bus income	-	10,120
Afterschool clubs	-	22,875
	<u>-</u>	<u>161,729</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

8 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	5,023	5,023	348
Other income from fixed asset investments	7,418	7,418	-
Other investment income	-	-	336
	<u>12,441</u>	<u>12,441</u>	<u>684</u>

9 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Rental income	43,548	43,548	19,786
Other income	-	-	25,322
	<u>43,548</u>	<u>43,548</u>	<u>45,108</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

10 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Teaching £	Welfare £	Premises £	Support £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	-	-	-	-	-	2,548,299
Depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-	118,620
Other costs	8,182	-	7,985	40,929	57,096	1,502,650
Governance	-	-	-	32,800	32,800	12,000
	<u>8,182</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,985</u>	<u>73,729</u>	<u>89,896</u>	<u>4,181,569</u>
For the period ended 31 December 2023						
Unrestricted funds	<u>8,182</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,985</u>	<u>73,729</u>	<u>89,896</u>	<u>-</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2022						
Unrestricted funds	<u>2,187,388</u>	<u>334,312</u>	<u>897,206</u>	<u>762,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,181,569</u>

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Governance costs (Included within support costs)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Audit fees			
Audit of the financial statements		<u>32,800</u>	<u>32,800</u>
Total for period ended 31 December 2023		<u>32,800</u>	<u>32,800</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

13 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the period was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Scholastic	-	58
Administration	-	29
	<u>-</u>	<u>87</u>

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £
Staff costs during the period were:	
Wages and salaries	2,050,969
Social security costs	182,565
Pension costs	314,765
	<u>2,548,299</u>

All staff were transferred to Alpha Schools Group on 16 February 2022.

14 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No Trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

During the period ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £1,493) were reimbursed or paid directly to one Trustee.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

15 Fixed asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment properties	975,000	263,938
Other investments	<u>1,049,073</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,024,073</u>	<u>263,938</u>

Investment properties

	Investment properties £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 September 2022	263,938
Revaluation	<u>711,062</u>
At 31 December 2023	975,000
Provision	
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	<u>975,000</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>263,938</u>

There has been no valuation of investment property by an independent valuer.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

Other Investments

	Listed Investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
Revaluation	43,487	43,487
Additions	1,067,737	1,067,737
Disposals	(62,151)	(62,151)
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,049,073</u>	<u>1,049,073</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,049,073</u>	<u>1,049,073</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	133,054	142,454
Provision for bad debts	(131,658)	(138,476)
Prepayments	<u>1,694</u>	<u>4,200</u>
	<u>3,090</u>	<u>8,178</u>

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank	<u>265,808</u>	<u>1,599,877</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	-	177,348
Other creditors	101,751	333,494
Accruals	<u>53,400</u>	<u>24,597</u>
	<u>155,151</u>	<u>535,439</u>

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Unrestricted funds	1,333,553	141,024	(93,618)	753,861	2,134,820
Restricted funds					
Chess donation	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
PTA donation	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Total restricted funds	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Total funds	1,336,553	141,024	(93,618)	753,861	2,137,820

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Unrestricted funds	2,848,865	3,525,280	(5,289,591)	249,000	1,333,554
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated reserve	<u>249,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(249,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,097,865</u>	<u>3,525,280</u>	<u>(5,289,591)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,333,554</u>
Restricted					
Chess donation	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
PTA donation	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Total funds	<u>3,100,865</u>	<u>3,525,280</u>	<u>(5,289,591)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,336,554</u>

The designated fund is for the swimming pool and fitness room. A transfer from the designated fund to the general reserve was made on the sale of the Schools.

Gloucestershire Catholic Educational Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2023

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	1,049,073	-	1,049,073
Current assets	265,898	3,000	268,898
Current liabilities	(155,151)	-	(155,151)
Total net assets	1,159,820	3,000	1,162,820
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	263,939	-	263,939
Current assets	1,605,055	3,000	1,608,055
Current liabilities	(535,439)	-	(535,439)
Total net assets	1,333,555	3,000	1,336,555

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cashflows £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,599,878	(1,335,574)	264,304
Debt due within 1 year	(177,348)	177,348	-
Total net assets	1,422,530	(1,158,226)	264,304