

Charity Registration No. 298155

Company Registration No. 02187958 (England and Wales)

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Gorridge M Reddan JA Ladner E Lambert S Mereu MA Diaper C Bertschi
Charity number	298155
Company number	02187958
Principal address	Thorpe Hall School Waking Road Thorpe Bay Southend-on-Sea Essex SS1 3RD
Registered office	Thorpe Hall School Waking Road Thorpe Bay Southend-on-Sea Essex SS1 3RD
Auditor	Rickard Luckin Limited Phoenix House, Suite 8 Christopher Martin Road Basildon Essex SS14 3EZ
Website	https://www.thorpehall.southend.sch.uk/

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are the advancement of education and provision of independent coeducational day schooling for children between the ages of two and sixteen plus years. Within these objects, the Trust also has to maintain the land and buildings, which are owned by Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Ltd, and provide for bursaries and other educational purposes. The school provides means tested bursaries to a number of children.

The school's vision statement is: To create collisions with opportunities for all learners so that they can dream with their eyes open, achieve their ambitions and positively influence the world.

The school's aim is to provide a first class independent education, through strong academic tuition and the development of sporting, artistic and social skills in all of its pupils. The school seeks to provide an environment where each pupil can develop and fulfil their potential and thus build self-confidence and a desire to contribute to the wider community.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee charging. In the 2022-23 academic year, the school's specific aims are:

1. To maintain high academic standards throughout the school and to treat each pupil as an individual and important member of the school community.
2. To provide more opportunities across more areas for pupils to develop more relevant lifelong skills.
3. To encourage intellectual risk-taking and create an environment where students are free to question, free to discover, free to try, and free to succeed.
4. To use robust and rigorous assessment strategies to ensure that all learners have the best opportunity to outperform.
5. To communicate in a transparent and regular manner with all parents and carers so that they can support their children and become actively involved in the school community.
6. To promote a rich and varied co-curricular programme that encourages maxim participation.
7. To ensure that all aspects of the school are fully compliant with all regulations.
8. To continue to upgrade and invest in new facilities and resources to support learning.
9. To promote good working relationships with a range of local and national stakeholders and organisations.

The school continues to innovate and share best practice in pedagogy and meta learning. The school now aims to broaden the audience of these innovations through a greater online presence and thought leadership in the local press.

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

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance

In 2023 the school numbers increase significantly to 470, the largest ever. The Senior School created additional classes to cater for demand and the numbers in the nursery also rose considerably. GCSE Value Added results were significantly higher than the average in the UK in externally marked examinations, with a Value Added of 0.81. The results in various competitions were highly credible and participation in school c470s increased to over 90% across the school. The numbers of students taking private music lessons rose by 120%, LAMDA numbers went up by 120% and students taking the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme rose by 25%.

As with the previous year, the school continued to encourage the lettings and community use of the Seaglass Centre and this year we hosted one of the largest model railway exhibitions in the South East of England and saw over 2000 people attend over the weekend. As with previous years, the school created strong links with three local charities which it supported actively during the year.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in the financial statements published with this report, which continue to demonstrate that the school remains in a strong and sound financial position as a result of prudent management and control.

Unrestricted funds:

It is the governor's policy that unrestricted funds should be applied in the continuous development and benefit of Thorpe Hall School.

Restricted funds:

There are no specific or restricted funds held at present.

Reserves Policy

The Governing Body regularly monitors the reserves to ensure that sufficient funds are maintained to meet anticipated future needs whilst avoiding long term accumulation of excessive sums.

At 31st August 2023, the school had free reserves of £4,326,909.

The Governing Body maintains a prudent level of reserves in line with their policy to spend income received on the pupils in the school at that time, except where a specific project required funding to be built up over several years.

The charity is run as a private fee paying school, which is therefore its principal funding source. Those funds when generated, and after reinvesting into the requirements for education, will be applied back into the school buildings by way of support to Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Ltd for the servicing and repayment of its mortgage from Barclays Bank PLC. Secondly, those funds have been utilised in the purchase of fixed assets for use within the school.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Future Developments

The school intends to build on its solid foundations, both academically and financially, and will look to move forward and improve further in both areas. To assist with the increasing NOR and the expansion of the education offering to the students, the Trustees are looking to invest in the following new areas –

- New Science laboratories and classrooms, for the use of the whole school
- A new Creative and Digital Arts and Media Centre
- Upgrading and improving the playground
- A new business centre

The Trustees are mindful of the Labour Party's plan to impose VAT on independent school fees, the impact of which we cannot predict. We have contingency plans should this policy be made law, and then should this then impact our NOR. The trustees believe that the school is in a very strong position should this policy be enacted due to the popularity and quality of the educational offering we provide

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

J Gorridge
M Reddan
JA Ladner
E Lambert
S Mereu
MA Diaper
C Bertschi
Dr DW Sills

(Resigned 27 March 2023)

Sadly this year, the Board of Trustees lost one of its longest standing trustees and a great champion of the school, Dr David Sills. He will be greatly missed by the trustees and the School.

The procedures for appointment of a trustee are set out in the Articles of Association of the company. At other time, the trustees endeavour to identify parents of children within the school or other people within the local community at large who have the requisite skills and acumen to act as governors. If such persons agree, they are co-opted to the board and a formal resolution for their appointment is put to the members for confirmation at the next board meeting.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company and those trustees with children at the school pay the same level of fees as non-trustee parents.

Parents of all pupils in the school can be offered membership of Thorpe Hall School Trust. That membership terminates upon the departure of such parents last child from the school. The maximum liability or contribution that each member can be called upon to make is £1. The trust requires all parents of pupils in the main school to place an interest free deposit with the trust (the amount of such deposit being determined by the governors from time to time) and this deposit is refundable when their child (or last child) leaves the school. Members of staff may also apply to become members of the trust.

Governor recruitment is through a combination of approaches, one being the co-option of those with necessary skills, from parents of children at the school to those with an interest in the school community. Nominations for Governors will be requested by a specific date. These nominations must include the reasons why the nominee wishes to become a Governor and the attributes they can bring to the Governing Body. These nominations will be considered by the members of the school who will decide the successful candidate.

The School provides all new Governors with a comprehensive induction covering a comprehensive range of issues and topics. This is to ensure they gain a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of being a school Governor so they can fulfil their role with confidence.

The Governing Body is committed to providing training for Governors specific to their roles and the requirements of the School. The School purchases training from appropriate bodies.

Meetings of the board of governors take place at intervals of approximately once a school term. To constitute a quorum there must be at least four governors present, out of a maximum permitted number of governors at 15. The meetings are chaired by the chair of governors or in his/her absence by the vice-chair. The board of governors is responsible for making policy decisions in consultation with the Headteacher.

Implementation of those policies is the function of the Headteacher who will consult, as appropriate with the senior leadership team. Individual governors provide guidance on specific areas depending on their personal knowledge, skills and experience. In addition, one sub-committee considers all health and safety matters, a second considers all financial matters, including all ground buildings and maintenance matters and a third considers all education and personnel matters.

The day to day running of the school is delegated to the Headteacher, supported by his leadership team. The head and members of staff as appropriate are invited to attend the governor's meetings. Mr S Duckett has been Headteacher since 1 September 2021. The senior leadership team comprises of Mr Stephen Duckitt (Headteacher), Mrs Roxi Sheen (Deputy Head – Senior School) Mr. Richard Turner (Deputy Head – Senior School), Mrs Jade Peterson and Mr Chris Ramdin (Co Deputy Heads – Prep School).

The governors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Detailed consideration of risk is considered by the governors in consultation with the Headteacher, who is assisted by the senior leadership team and by the health and safety committee. Risks are identified, assessed and controls established throughout the year.

Key controls used by the governors include:

- 1) Formal agendas for all board meetings
- 2) Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting
- 3) Established organisational structure and lines of reporting
- 4) Formal written policies
- 5) Clear authorisation and approval levels and
- 6) Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable

Through risk management processes established for the school the governors are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Trustees abides by the requirement of all relevant national and local agreements with particular reference to:

- School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, including due regard to relevant guidance documents and accompanying circulars
- Conditions of Employment for School Teachers in England & Wales

Those on the leadership spine play a critical role in the life of the school. They inspire confidence in those around them and work with others to create a shared strategic vision which motivates pupils and staff. They take the lead in enhancing standards of teaching and learning and value enthusiasm and innovation in others. They have the confidence and ability to make management and organisational decisions and ensure equity, access and entitlement to learning.

Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Limited, a company incorporated in England, is the owner of the freehold land and buildings from which the trust operates as a private school. The Trust pays a rent for that occupation as shown in these accounts. Thorpe Hall School Trust has advanced the monies to Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Ltd to provide part of the funds to build and improve the school. The current account has been secured by way of a second charge against the freehold land and buildings of that company and interest is charged at a rate of 3% per annum above Barclays Bank Plc base rate. The first charge against the freehold land and buildings is held by Barclays Bank Plc in support of their mortgage, again to provide part of the funds to improve the school.

Disabled persons

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the charity continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the charity that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Employee involvement

The charity's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests.

Information of matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins and reports which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the group's performance.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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

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J Gorridge

Dated:

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Thorpe Hall School Trust for the purpose 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).

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

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Thorpe Hall School Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law 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).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements 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; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue 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 financial statements.

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

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our: general commercial and sector experience; through verbal and written communications with those charged with governance and other management, and via inspection of the charitable company's regulatory and legal correspondence.

We discussed with those charged with governance and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations to our team and remained alert to any indicators of non-compliance throughout the audit, we also specifically considered where and how fraud may occur within the charitable company.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements, including: the charitable company's constitution; relevant financial reporting standards; company law; the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective from 1 January 2019); and we assess the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

Secondly the charitable company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines and penalties, or through losses arising from litigations. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an affect: legislation directly applicable to charities sector such as the Charities Act 2011, employment legislation; health and safety legislation; safeguarding legislation; the regulatory requirements of the Independent Schools Inspectorate; the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission; data protection legislation; anti-bribery and corruption legislation.

International Auditing Standards (UK) limit the required procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to the procedures, and no procedures over and above those already noted are required. These limited procedures did not identify any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations that could have a material impact on the financial statements.

In relation to fraud, we performed the following specific procedures in addition to those already noted:

- Challenging assumptions made by management in its significant accounting estimates in particular: income recognition (including deferred income) , depreciation of tangible fixed assets and provisions for any bad or doubtful debts;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any entries posted with unusual nominal ledger account combinations, journal entries posted by senior management;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud;
- Ensuring that testing undertaken on both the Statement of Financial Activity (SoFA) and the Balance Sheet includes a number of items selected on a random basis;
- Reviewing the minutes of the Governing Body and key sub committees such as the finance committee;
- Evaluating and documenting the internal controls through walkthrough testing.

These procedures did not identify any actual or suspected fraudulent irregularity that could have a material impact on the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with International Auditing Standards (UK). For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the procedures that we are required to undertake would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a high risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these might involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud, and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations or every incidence of fraud.

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 company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

Kate Bell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Rickard Luckin Limited

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Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Phoenix House, Suite 8
Christopher Martin Road
Basildon
Essex
SS14 3EZ

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Charitable activities	3	6,080,474	5,272,680
Investments	4	78,514	44,389
Other income	5	178,243	135,651
Total income		<u>6,337,231</u>	<u>5,452,720</u>
Charitable activities	6	5,830,986	5,235,967
Net income and movement in funds		<u>506,245</u>	<u>216,753</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		<u>3,820,664</u>	<u>3,603,911</u>
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		<u><u>4,326,909</u></u>	<u><u>3,820,664</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		836,307		842,038
Current assets					
Stocks		1,717		1,717	
Debtors	12	7,053,694		6,665,311	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,223,390		743,966	
		<u>8,278,801</u>		<u>7,410,994</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,453,748)</u>		<u>(3,120,347)</u>	
Net current assets			4,825,053		4,290,647
Total assets less current liabilities			5,661,360		5,132,685
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(1,334,451)		(1,312,021)
Net assets			<u>4,326,909</u>		<u>3,820,664</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds - general			4,326,909		3,820,664
			<u>4,326,909</u>		<u>3,820,664</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

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M Reddan

Trustee

Company Registration No. 02187958

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	20		580,707		778,273
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(114,773)		(238,767)	
Investment income received		78,514		44,389	
Net cash used in investing activities			(36,259)		(194,378)
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(65,024)		(12,057)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(65,024)		(12,057)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			479,424		571,838
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			743,966		172,128
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,223,390		743,966

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Thorpe Hall School Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Thorpe Hall School, Wakering Road, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3RD.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

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

1.4 Income

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

Fee income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable.

Deferred income is funds received in advance which relates to future financial years.

Investment income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditures on the objects of the charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Summer works (property improvements)	4% straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings and equipment	10-20% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	10% straight line basis

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

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the charity are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS'), which is a defined benefit scheme, and a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the charity 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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit 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.

Payments to the defined contribution retirement benefit scheme are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Fee income	5,800,083	5,076,610
Trip income	103,762	64,375
Catering income	166,978	126,955
Swimming income	1,340	2,547
Before and after school clubs	8,311	2,193
	<u>6,080,474</u>	<u>5,272,680</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	<u>78,514</u>	<u>44,389</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Overheads recharged	<u>178,243</u>	<u>135,651</u>

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2023 £	Charitable activities 2022 £
Staff costs	3,910,491	3,577,995
Depreciation and impairment	120,504	112,832
Purchases and trip expenditure	415,625	291,839
Discounts and bursaries	358,573	313,303
Establishment costs	348,297	333,536
Repairs and maintenance	80,021	81,201
Office expenses	20,368	19,721
Printing, postage and stationery	24,930	67,484
Subscriptions and donations	100,308	123,935
Sundry and other costs	50,366	46,426
Cleaning	20,025	16,593
Motor expenses	15,379	25,168
Travel and subsistence	969	1,266
Advertising and promotion	83,345	118,984
Bad debt expense	104,554	(2,000)
Interest payable	91,586	56,825
Staff training and recruitment	21,294	17,986
	<u>5,766,635</u>	<u>5,203,094</u>
Share of support costs (see note 7)	51,381	14,253
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	12,970	18,620
	<u>5,830,986</u>	<u>5,235,967</u>

7 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Legal and professional	51,381	14,253
Governance costs	12,970	18,620
	<u>64,351</u>	<u>32,873</u>
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	<u>64,351</u>	<u>32,873</u>

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

7 Support costs allocated to activities (Continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Governance costs comprise:		
Audit fees	11,250	17,630
Accountancy	1,720	990
	<u>12,970</u>	<u>18,620</u>

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management	5	5
Administration and support	24	24
Teaching	80	73
Total	<u>109</u>	<u>102</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	3,139,437	2,862,742
Social security costs	304,873	277,680
Other pension costs	466,181	437,573
	<u>3,910,491</u>	<u>3,577,995</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£60,001 - £70,000	4	2

Contributions totalling £83,187 (2022 - £52,084) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000.

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

9 Employees

(Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel remuneration solely relates to the head teacher's remuneration £122,906 (2022 - £116,085).

10 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and has not undertaken any taxable activities during the year, and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Summer works (property improvements)	Fixtures and fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2022	763,747	1,340,805	55,671	2,160,223
Additions	42,672	72,101	-	114,773
At 31 August 2023	806,419	1,412,906	55,671	2,274,996
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2022	185,071	1,080,108	53,006	1,318,185
Depreciation charged in the year	32,257	85,582	2,665	120,504
At 31 August 2023	217,328	1,165,690	55,671	1,438,689
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2023	589,091	247,216	-	836,307
At 31 August 2022	578,676	260,697	2,665	842,038

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,746,452	1,356,120
Other debtors	5,297,161	5,259,094
Prepayments and accrued income	10,081	50,097
	7,053,694	6,665,311

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	15	65,025	152,479
Other taxation and social security		82,894	70,349
Deferred income		2,518,420	2,253,427
Trade creditors		173,457	11,942
Other creditors		532,090	502,389
Accruals and deferred income		81,862	129,761
		<u>3,453,748</u>	<u>3,120,347</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	15	<u>1,334,451</u>	<u>1,312,021</u>

15 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	<u>1,399,476</u>	<u>1,464,500</u>
Payable within one year	65,025	152,479
Payable after one year	<u>1,334,451</u>	<u>1,312,021</u>

The long-term loans are secured by fixed and floating charges over all undertakings by the trust and the property held by Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Limited.

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2023 £
General funds	<u>3,820,664</u>	<u>6,337,231</u>	<u>(5,830,986)</u>	<u>4,326,909</u>

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

16 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,603,911	5,452,720	(5,235,967)	3,820,664

17 Retirement benefit schemes

The charity's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff being a defined benefit scheme; and a separate defined contribution scheme available for all employees. The assets of each scheme are held separately.

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The charity has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

The charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £466,181 (2022 - £437,573).

Contributions totalling £48,803 (2022 - £56,517) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period.

18 Related party transactions

Loan to Head Teacher

Included in other debtors is £125,550 for a loan to the Head Teacher.
The total loan was £124,000 and is in relation to their relocation costs.
This is repayable on demand, therefore it is due within 1 year.

Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Limited

During the year the Charity paid rent totalling £216,000 (2022 - £216,000), recharged interest totalling £77,923 (2022 - £42,839) and recharged overhead costs of £135,032 (2022 - £117,970).

During the year the Charity has received income of £6,346 (2022 - £nil) and made payments of £7,850 (2022 - £nil) on behalf of Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Ltd during the year.

At the year end the balance due from Thorpe Hall School (Essex) Ltd totalled £5,168,711 (2022 - £5,130,644).

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	16,514	14,233
Between two and five years	65,599	5,664
	<u>82,113</u>	<u>19,897</u>

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities as an expense during the period in respect of operating lease arrangements are £17,334 (2022 - £15,141).

THORPE HALL SCHOOL TRUST

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

20	Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
	Surplus for the year	506,245	216,753
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(78,514)	(44,389)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	120,504	112,832
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in debtors	(388,383)	(170,102)
	Increase in creditors	155,862	130,248
	Increase in deferred income	264,993	532,931
	Cash generated from operations	580,707	778,273
21	Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds		
		At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £
			At 31 August 2023 £
	Cash at bank and in hand	743,966	479,424
	Loans falling due within one year	(152,479)	87,454
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,312,021)	(22,430)
		(720,534)	544,448
			(176,086)