

Charity Registration No. 307043
Company Registration No. 00799603 (England and Wales)

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

GOVERNORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Governors

Mr R Sharkey (Chairman)
Mr M Baynham
Mr N Creed
Mrs D Kay
Mr M Proffitt
Dr N Roberts
Mrs E Harrison
Mr A Cutler
Mrs S Browne

Key Management Personnel

Head

Mr C Murray

Deputy Head

Mr J Marler

Bursar & Company Secretary

Mr P Flowerday

Charity Number

307043

Company Number

00799603

Registered office & principal address

Pennthorpe School
Church Street
Rudgwick
West Sussex
RH12 3HJ

Auditors

TC Group
The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
90 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BP

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

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PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

GOVERNORS' REPORT

The Governors are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024, which also comply with the Companies Act 2006 requirement for a Directors' Report and Strategic Report.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Pennthorpe School Trust Limited ('the School') was incorporated in 1964 and operates as Pennthorpe School. The School is a company limited by guarantee (company number 00799603), registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 307043) and is governed by its Articles of Association, last amended on 18 September 2021.

Recruitment, Induction and Training

Governors of the School are elected on the basis of nominations received by the Chair of Governors, to the Board's specifications concerning eligibility, personal competence, specialist skills and availability. Governors are elected at any meeting of the Board, subject to confirmation of their eligibility to act as a Director and Trustee and serve a term of office of five years.

A retiring Governor shall be eligible for re-election for consecutive periods not exceeding two terms in office from the date of his or her original appointment (save that Governors in post at the time the Articles of Association were adopted shall serve out the remainder of the five-year period). This may be extended at the discretion of, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Governors.

New Governors are inducted into the workings of the Charity and the School. They are given copies of various documents including the AGBIS "Guidelines for Governors" manual, the Articles of Association, the latest audited accounts and the most recent School ISI inspection report. They are encouraged to visit the school and given orientation briefings by the Chair of Governors and/or other Governors, the Head and the Bursar and receive Safeguarding training.

Governors are encouraged to attend external training, courses and conferences designed to keep them informed and updated on current issues and regulations concerning education and governance.

Governors, Directors and Charity Trustees

The Governors of Pennthorpe School Trust Limited ("the School", "the Charity", "the Company" or "Pennthorpe") are the School's charity trustees under charity law and the directors of the charitable company. The members of the Governing Body who served in office as Governors during the year and subsequently are detailed below:

Mrs S Browne *	
Mr M Baynham	
Mr N Creed	
Mr A Cutler	appointed 24 June 2024
Mrs E Harrison	appointed 17 April 2024
Mrs D Kay	
Mr M Proffitt	
Dr N Roberts	
Mr Tom Scully	appointed 12 th November 2024
Mr R Sharkey **	

* Chair of Governors up to 31st August 2024

** Chair of Governors from 1st September 2024

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GOVERNORS' REPORT

The activities of the Governing Body are carried out through 3 sub-committees listed below:

- (1) Education and Welfare
- (2) Finance and Estates
- (3) Governance and Nominations

All governors are members of at least one committee.

Organisational Management

The members of the Governing Body, as the Charity's trustees, are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School. Much of the Governing Body's detailed work is carried out by the three committees listed above, pursuant to terms of reference set by the Governing Body. Meetings of the full Governing Body are held at least once a term.

The day-to-day running of the School is delegated to the Head and Bursar, as the key management personnel, who in turn are supported by other members of the Senior Management Team. The Head and Bursar attend all meetings of the full Governing Body and committee meetings.

The Governing Body delegates decisions on staff pay, in accordance with the School's Pay and Conditions Policy, to the Finance and Estates Committee. The committee meets annually to consider the remuneration levels of the Senior Management Team and a review by the Head of all School staff, including key management personnel. All members of staff are required to participate in arrangements made for performance management. The Head reviews progress and sets targets with all members of key management personnel and other staff are reviewed by members of the Senior Management Team; the review of progress and target setting for the Head are undertaken by the Governors.

Employment policy

The School is an equal opportunities employer.

Investment powers and policy

These are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which permit surplus funds to be invested in any investments, security or property as may be thought fit and as may be prescribed by law. The School's investment objective is to maximise the return on its investment funds while maintaining maximum security and a high degree of liquidity. To meet this objective, the School invests in call deposits with a high security rating.

OBJECTS, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, as amended on 18 September 2021, are to acquire and carry on in the United Kingdom any boarding or day school or schools for the education of children and to provide education based on inclusive values. In furtherance of these objects for the public benefit the School has established and administers bursaries and scholarships. The Board is mindful of the long-standing need to provide public benefit and of the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Aims

At Pennthorpe we aim:

- Through our innovative curriculum, to inspire creativity and enable every pupil to experience success, be it in academic or co-curricular studies. Our goal is to be a centre of excellence for teaching and pupil outcomes; to develop a reflective, lifelong learning ethic in our pupils and challenge children of all abilities to achieve excellence.

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- Through our Pennthorpe Purpose and wellbeing curriculum, to promote happiness and fulfilment, inspiring and fostering an inner confidence and mutual respect in pupils. We value each child, identifying and helping to develop each individual's strengths and passions and investing emotionally in each pupil's individual journey with a goal for every child to comprehend their place in the local and global community.
- To build constructive relationships with local and regional communities and aim to give demonstrable public benefit. This includes fostering strong, mutually supportive relationships with our parents, as well as a diverse range of senior schools across the UK. Our target is to attract and retain quality staff, who are innovative, passionate and committed to applying their skills to facilitate excellent journey.
- To prioritise our pupils in all of our decision making and continually reinvest in our educational provision for their benefit. We also want to reduce the school's carbon footprint and embrace diversity within our community, with a goal to honour, accept and appreciate the uniqueness of everyone.
- To provide competitively priced, market-leading education for children aged 2 to 13 where children can be happy, confident and capable learners, prepared for the rigour and opportunities of life in the 21st century, whilst generating surpluses that can be reinvested in the school campus to provide facilities that will offer the very best experience for the pupils.

Objectives

Pennthorpe's principal objectives are set out as follows:

- A distinct and attractive market proposition;
- High achievement through excellent teaching and learning;
- A curricular and co-curricular provision and pastoral system that enables every pupil to achieve success and positive wellbeing;
- Financial strength and sustainability;
- Effective, motivated and skilled staff;
- A high standard of development and maintenance of the School's assets;
- Effective governance and leadership;
- An outstanding reputation across all stakeholder groups.

To ensure delivery of these key principal objectives, the Governing Board meets annually to review its strategic aims and the executive team subsequently produces an annual Implementation Plan which details how they will be delivered and enhanced.

Activities

The Charity's principal activity, continues to be the provision of day school education to pupils ranging from 2 to 13 years of age.

Public Benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on charitable purpose and public benefit, and in particular to its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. Pennthorpe School Trust Limited is a charitable trust which seeks to benefit the public through the pursuit of its objects, aims and objectives. Fees are set at a level to ensure the financial viability of the School and at a level that is consistent with the achievement of its aims and objectives. The School's charitable objects are "to provide education", such objects are recognised as benefitting the public when pursued in the context of formal education in a body where all surplus funds are re-invested. The School is a charitable body with no external shareholders and no possibility of making distributions whether in the form of dividends or otherwise. All surpluses are re-invested in education.

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The awarding of bursaries for those who could not otherwise afford independent education is a measurable means of providing public benefit. The Governing Body takes the view that bursaries awarded to those who would not otherwise be able to afford the fees are important, but not to the exclusion of the much wider benefit that the School provides within the community. The School has extended and refined means-testing by introducing a more rigorous and detailed process, including assessment by an independent specialist company. Those pupils who attend our school and who receive financial support contribute to the School community in a variety of ways, and so the benefit is not purely to those pupils but to the whole School. Included within the total bursaries, discounts and awards are means tested bursaries totalling £126,592 (2023: £51,282).

The school's culture is encapsulated by our motto, 'non nobis solum nati – born not for ourselves alone', which expresses that our reason for being is not selfish, but for the goodness of humanity. We do not exist just to serve our own intentions, but have a duty to positively contribute to the lives, and benefit, of others. By giving the best of ourselves to the world, we make it a better place.

This culture permeates every element of school life, and there are many philanthropic activities undertaken to enable pupils to learn about altruism, and experience the feelings of happiness, optimism and satisfaction often attributed to selfless acts of kindness. Examples include; our Charity Commission, made up of children in Years 6 – 8, who support local, national and international charities by organising charity days and events at school; participation in Silver Stories, a reading initiative where pupils volunteer to read to elderly listeners to combat loneliness; and our Think Tank lessons, where the children think and dream big, using their imagination, knowledge and skills, to plan projects that could change the world for the better.

In addition to the charitable activities of the children, the school makes available our sports facilities, either free of charge or at a nominal rate, to local sports clubs in the evenings and weekends when not in use by the pupils at the school and in keeping with planning restrictions imposed by the local residents. We facilitate local charities' use of our minibuses for holiday clubs and day trips.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Pennthorpe was judged to be Excellent, the highest possible grade, in both 'Pupils Academic and other Achievements' and 'Pupils Personal Development' in the last full ISI Inspection. This achievement has been greatly fostered by the selection, retention and personal commitment of high-quality leadership and staff.

Common Entrance and Scholarship Results:

- 100% of Year 8 pupils gained a place at their first choice of senior school.
- 100% of pupils achieved A* – C grades in all Common Entrance Subjects
- 41% of Year 8 gained A*/A grades in Common Entrance examinations (up 4% on 2023)
- 39% of Year 8 pupils gained senior school scholarships, across a broad range of subjects, including Academic, Art, Drama/Performing Arts, Sport and All Rounder scholarships, including one pupil gaining a full academic scholarship at Brighton College (up 1% on 2023)
- 50% of pupils from the Academic Scholarship Programme gained an Academic Scholarship to their chosen Senior School

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GOVERNORS' REPORT

Academic Common Entrance Results:

	2024
A*	8%
A	33%
B	42%
C	17%
D	0%
E	0%

As a Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB) school, Pennthorpe has continued to embed the PSB skills into its culture via the Pennthorpe Purpose. The skills, together with our core values, form the backbone of daily life, and are deep-seated in everything, from our curriculum, teaching and learning, to being highly visible around the school, and common vocabulary for all in our community.

The pioneering Pennthorpe Prodigy Programme was launched this year with current pupils., and has also featured in Independent School Parent as well as schoolstrader.com and we plan to put the Programme forward for the Muddy Stilettos 'Best Experiential learning' Award this year.

Sporting Achievements:

- U11 Boys Hockey Lancing College Cup winners 2024
- U13 Boys Football Lancing College Plate winners 2024
- U11 Girls Hockey Pennthorpe Cup winners 2024
- U12 Girls Hockey IAPS National Shield winners 2023
- Sports Scholarship to Brighton College, Ardingly College, Hurts and Seaford College
- All pupils in Years 3-8 played a minimum of 20 competitive fixtures for the school in the past academic year
- Quarter Final of the U13 County Cricket Cup
- U13 Girls Pennthorpe Football Festival 1st place
- 7 x pupils represented Sussex at the National Prep School Athletics Finals

Competitions and Representative Players:

Pupils selected to represent:

- Sussex & England Hockey 2024
- Sussex Cricket
- Sussex Hockey – 2 players
- U12 Boys Prep School Pumas 'A' Squad
- U13 Boys Prep School Pumas 'A' Squad

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results for the year

The Charity's net incoming resources were £88,002 (2023: net outgoing resources £185,078).

Reserves level and policy and financial viability

The Governors have established a general reserve policy to afford some protection to the School and its charitable programme and to provide time to adjust to changing financial circumstances.

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Uncommitted reserves this year stand at £4,087,684. Of these reserves, a total of £4,520,531 comprise the charity's fixed assets, a significant portion of which is represented by freehold land and buildings. This does not leave any free reserves available for immediate requirement. The Governing Body has a target of 12 weeks' funding of total expenditure without placing reliance on external funding.

The last few years have remained economically challenging for the local and wider region. The Governors continue to assess this aspect closely at their termly meetings, and endeavour to adapt accordingly.

It is the policy of the Governing Body to generate annual operating surpluses to enable the bank loan to be repaid and to sustain reserves at the desired level. Procedures are in place to ensure that expenditure stays within the budgets set or, where expenditure in excess of that budgeted is required to be incurred, that corresponding increases in income or savings have been identified prior to incurring the excess expenditure. The Governing Body receives termly management accounts and cash flow forecasts which are linked to the budget in place.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Governors have an established procedure to review key risks on an ongoing basis.

The economic environment has not been helpful to independent schools over the past several years and many have closed as a result, with those outside the South East bearing the brunt. We have been secure at Pennthorpe throughout this period but we have also been financially prudent. Even during this tricky economic climate, we have continued to invest further in the School, and we will continue to improve and enhance the School's facilities as our finances allow. Pennthorpe has a strategic plan in place to grow in numbers, however, we never lose sight of the fact that within our resources, we must provide the best possible education and learning environment for our pupils.

The Government's tax policies contained in their Autumn Budget in October 2024 will have a significant impact on all independent schools throughout the country, including Pennthorpe. The decision by the Government to implement these changes mid-academic year means that schools have had little time in which to make any structural changes to their provision for the academic year 2024/25. The addition of VAT on school fees, the removal of mandatory business rates relief, the increase in employer's National Insurance and the increase in the National Living Wage will require a high level of re-budgeting and forecasting for the academic year 2024/25 and beyond.

The risk management process identifies risks, assesses their impact and likelihood, and where necessary, recommends controls to mitigate and monitor those risks assessed as high. The generic controls used to minimise risk include:

- A full high level risk register reviewed by the Head, Bursar and Governing Body;
- Detailed terms of reference together with formal agendas for each committee and full Governing Body meeting;
- Strategic development planning;
- Comprehensive budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structures and line of reporting;
- Formal written policies and approval levels; and
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

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GOVERNORS' REPORT

FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

The school recognises the contribution made by its supporters, with voluntary donations being a valuable part of the school's incoming resources. Most fundraising activity is carried out by the Friends of Pennthorpe (FoP) which is led by an elected committee of parents and operates independently of the school. This group raises money for the school through events and activities which are voluntary and advertised in a non-intrusive manner.

The school does not utilise the services of any external commercial fundraisers. Given that the majority of donations are from parents of current pupils, either direct or through the FoP, and only limited fundraising activity takes place, the school does not consider it necessary at this time to subscribe to a fundraising regulator.

FUTURE PLANS

The School reviews the strategic aims and the operational Implementation Plan annually to continue to ensure the delivery of a first-class education. The key objectives within the current plan are to:

- Review the school's position within a changing marketplace, with specific consideration of affordability and a competitive package to ensure long-term viability in view of the recent economic and political changes as illustrated in the Autumn Budget 2024
- Further develop staff understanding and their contribution to the success of Pennthorpe
- Continue to implement and develop strategies to drive the quality of teaching and learning
- Prioritise the wellbeing of our whole community, ensuring all within our community thrive in terms of mental health and that children continue to progress pastorally, as well as academically
- Implement an enriching and dynamic initiative in place of the outdated scholarship model. The Prodigy Programme will be more inclusive and celebrate pupil excellence within a wider range of disciplines than previously available. It will further prepare children for entry and scholarships to leading senior schools
- To develop opportunities for all pupils to experience a range industries and careers including, guest speakers, workplace placements, Enrichment Trips and the Pennthorpe Innovation Week
- To continue the progress we have made in developing our outdoor learning provision which currently runs from Honeypot to Year 4. To develop this provision for pupils by extending on the resources which the children have access to include access to more tools to support the development of the ability to take a risk, demonstrate resilience and collaborate. To consider ways of extending this provision to older year groups, such as by having more Forest School afternoons for pupils in years 5 and above.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governors (who are also the directors of Pennthorpe School Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' Annual Report (incorporating the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the Governors 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the 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 of fraud and other irregularities.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

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

This report was approved by the Governors, as Directors of the charitable company, on 28th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Sharkey
Chair of Governors

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the financial statements of Pennthorpe School Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements. 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, and we have fulfilled our 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 governor's 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 doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the governors' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

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 the audit:

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the governors' 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 by the charitable company, 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 directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require; or

Responsibilities of the governors

As explained more fully in the governors' responsibilities statement, the governors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the governors 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 governors are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative 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. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

Our approach was as follows:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience, and through discussion with the Governors' and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Governors' and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations (see below);
- We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety; General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); fraud; bribery and corruption, school inspections, keeping children safe in education (statutory guidance), DBS checks and employment law. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. The identified actual or suspected non-compliance was not sufficiently significant to our audit to result in our response being identified as a key audit matter.
- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011) and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK.
- We considered the nature of the charitable company's operations, the control environment and financial performance.
- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We considered the procedures and controls that the charitable company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes and controls.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included: testing manual journals; reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performing analytical procedures; and enquiring of management, and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.

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 auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

Use of our report

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



Mark Cummins FCCA

Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of TC Group

Statutory Auditors

Steyning

West Sussex

Dated 2 January 2023

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations	5	-	18,600	18,600	19,028
Other trading activities	6	24,888	-	24,888	23,031
Investments	7	9,460	-	9,460	6,618
Charitable activities	8	3,939,242	-	3,939,242	3,420,031
Other income	9	-	-	-	1,587
Total income		3,973,590	18,600	3,992,190	3,470,295
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		59,110	-	59,110	49,665
Charitable activities		3,845,078	-	3,845,078	3,605,708
Total expenditure	10	3,904,188	-	3,904,188	3,655,373
Net income/(expenditure)		69,402	18,600	88,002	(185,078)
Transfer between funds	21	18,600	(18,600)	-	-
Net movement in funds		88,002	-	88,002	(185,078)
Fund balances brought forward		3,999,682	-	3,999,682	4,184,760
Fund balances carried forward	20	4,087,684	-	4,087,684	3,999,682

All income and gains for the year are recognised above. All of the school's activities are classified as continuing.

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

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

Company Number: 00799603

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		4,520,531		4,687,590
Current assets					
Stocks	13	28,474		29,313	
Debtors	14	300,583		203,245	
Cash at bank and in hand		541,027		276,222	
		<u>870,084</u>		<u>508,780</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(784,928)</u>		<u>(638,998)</u>	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			85,156		(130,218)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		<u>(518,003)</u>		<u>(557,690)</u>
Net assets			<u>4,087,684</u>		<u>3,999,682</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	20				
General school funds			<u>4,087,684</u>		<u>3,999,682</u>
			<u>4,087,684</u>		<u>3,999,682</u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Governors and signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Sharkey
Governor



Mr M Baynham
Governor

Date: 28th November 2024

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024	2023	
	Notes	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		88,002	(185,078)	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	12	215,795	209,543	
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	7	(9,460)	(6,618)	
Interest payable		35,058	30,939	
Loss/(profit) from sale of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,587)	
(Increase)/decrease in stock		839	(2,097)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	(97,338)	(28,926)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	157,930	(152,412)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		390,826	(136,236)	
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	7	9,460	6,618	
Proceeds on sale of tangible fixed assets		-	4,500	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	(48,736)	(129,814)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(39,276)	(118,696)	
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Loan repayments		(51,687)	(52,042)	
Interest payable		(35,058)	(30,939)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(86,745)	(82,981)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in year		264,805	(337,913)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		276,222	614,135	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		541,027	276,222	
All cash is cash at bank and in hand.				

Analysis of changes in net funds

	Brought forward	Cash flows	Carried forward
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	276,222	264,805	541,027
Bank loans	(510,690)	51,687	(459,003)
	(234,468)	316,492	82,024

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Statutory information

Pennthorpe School Trust Limited is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP (FRS102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are prepared in Sterling and rounded to the nearest £1.

After reviewing the charitable company's forecasts and projections, the governors have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

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.

In the opinion of the governors, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation certainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

Deposits held are repayable when a pupil leaves the school and are included in creditors, with a proportion classified as due after one year as this reflects the true timing of their repayment.

2.2 Income

Fees receivable and charges for services, less any allowances, scholarships and bursaries granted by the school against those fees are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Where fees are received for a future service period they are included in deferred income, including those fees received under an advance fee payment scheme. The services provided are currently outside the scope of VAT.

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Donations, legacies, grants and other voluntary income are accounted for as and when entitlement arises, the amount can be reliably measured and the economic benefit is considered probable.

Where a donor or an appeal has imposed restrictions the income is credited to a restricted fund.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with irrecoverable VAT included with the item to which it relates.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories and departments on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly.

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

2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	10 years to 100 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

At each reporting date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. Any such loss would be recognised immediately as expenditure in that year.

Pennthorpe School Trust Limited has a fixed asset capitalisation policy threshold of £1,500.

2.5 Stock

Stock represents school uniform held for resale and is valued at the lower of cost or realisable value.

2.6 Operating lease commitments

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

2.7 Pensions

The charitable company participates in two defined contribution pension schemes, Aviva APTIS for teachers and Standard Life for other staff. Staff are therefore enrolled automatically into the scheme appropriate for their role. Both schemes are regulated by the Pensions regulator. Contributions are recognised in the financial statements as they fall due.

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The governors seek to use short and medium term deposits where possible to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2.10 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2.11 Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

2.12 Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments which are recognised at transaction value and subsequently at their settlement value.

2.13 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the governors.

Restricted funds are those funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes in accordance with the wishes of the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

3. Turnover

The turnover of the charity is wholly attributable to the objects of the charity as stated in the Governors' Report and is earned entirely within the UK.

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease payments	34,303	42,637
Stock recognised as an expense	21,677	16,394
Depreciation	215,795	209,543
(Profit)/loss on disposal of assets	-	1,587
Auditors' remuneration - audit services (see note 10)	10,800	9,990

4. Taxation

The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	18,600	18,600	19,028

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Uniform shop	24,888	-	24,888	23,031

7. Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	9,460	-	9,460	6,618

8. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross school fees	4,175,758	3,409,920
Less bursaries and allowances	(417,411)	(175,615)
Net school fees	3,758,347	3,234,305
Add:		
Registration fees	12,500	11,750
Extras	3,879	7,643
School bus service and minibus hire	5,032	4,845
Flexiday income	151,342	150,118
Premises hire	8,142	11,370
	3,939,242	3,420,031

9. Other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	1,587

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10. Analysis of expenditure

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising funds					
School uniform shop	-	-	21,677	21,677	16,394
Finance costs	-	-	37,433	37,433	33,271
Total costs of raising funds	-	-	59,110	59,110	49,665
Charitable activities					
Education					
Teaching	2,005,989	82,913	243,536	2,232,438	2,165,650
Welfare	-	-	365,623	365,623	350,627
Premises	118,291	132,882	448,767	699,940	594,046
Support and governance	275,355	-	171,722	447,077	495,385
Total charitable expenditure	2,399,635	215,795	1,229,648	3,845,078	3,605,708
Total expenditure	2,399,635	215,795	1,288,758	3,904,188	3,655,373

Analysis of support and governance costs:	2024	2023
	£	£
Governance costs:		
Auditors remuneration for audit services	10,800	9,990
Governors' training	216	210
Total governance costs	11,016	10,200
Support costs:		
Legal and professional fees relating to support	60,492	35,170
Support staff wages, national insurance and pension	275,355	361,411
Other support costs	111,230	88,604
	447,077	495,385

11. Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teaching	35	34
Classroom assistants	20	21
Administration, premises and other	18	13
	73	68

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11. Staff costs (cont'd)

The aggregate payroll costs for the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,959,063	1,878,149
Social security costs	183,723	180,676
Pension costs	215,606	209,761
Employee benefits	19,159	24,665
Agency staff & sports coaches	22,084	2,900
	<u>2,399,635</u>	<u>2,296,151</u>

None of the governors received any remuneration, reimbursed expenses or other benefits from the school or any connected body (2023: none).

There were no ex-gratia payments in the year (2023: none).

Staff with emoluments in excess of £60,000 per annum in the following bands are:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£70,000 - £79,999	-	1
£90,000 - £99,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Of the employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000, none (2023: none) has benefits accruing under a defined benefit scheme.

The key management personnel of the school are detailed in the Governors' Report and Legal and Administrative Information. In 2024: 3 staff (2023: 3 staff).

	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate employee benefits of key management personnel (including employer national insurance and pension contributions)	<u>202,982</u>	<u>198,676</u>

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Computer Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2023	6,039,288	662,413	295,917	39,358	7,036,976
Additions	-	45,621	3,115	-	48,736
At 31 August 2024	6,039,288	708,034	299,032	39,358	7,085,712
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	1,725,034	395,236	216,672	12,444	2,349,386
Charge for the year	132,882	41,025	35,160	6,728	215,795
At 31 August 2024	1,857,916	436,261	251,832	19,172	2,565,181
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	4,181,372	271,773	47,200	20,186	4,520,531
At 31 August 2023	4,314,254	267,177	79,245	26,914	4,687,590

13. Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Stock of uniform	28,474	29,313

14. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Fee debtors	226,173	87,281
Prepayments and accrued income	58,174	102,299
Other debtors	16,236	13,665
	300,583	203,245

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loan (secured – see note 17)	52,000	54,500
Trade creditors	46,548	159,437
Accruals and deferred income	45,540	35,190
Other creditors	61,212	33,865
Fees in advance	521,179	284,283
Deposits	17,000	18,500
Other taxes and social security	41,449	53,223
	784,928	638,998

Fees in advance represent fees received for autumn term 2024.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan (secured – see note 17)	407,003	456,190
Deposits	111,000	101,500
	518,003	557,690

17. Analysis of secured debts

The bank loan is wholly repayable in instalments as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
In less than one year	52,000	54,500
In more than one year but less than five years	208,000	218,000
In more than five years	199,003	238,190
	459,003	510,690

The bank loan is secured by legal charges over the freehold land and buildings and by a debenture in favour of Barclays Bank plc. The bank loan was formalised with Barclays Bank plc on 10 April 2018 for a 13 year term at a variable interest rate of 2% above base rate.

18. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases which are payable as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	28,848	36,970
Between one and five years	-	28,848
	28,848	65,818

19. Pension commitments

The pension charge for the year includes employer contributions payable to Aviva APTIS (a defined contribution scheme for teachers) of £192,297 (2023: £186,698) and at the year-end £24,713 (2023: £25,026) was accrued in respect of contributions due to the scheme.

The school also contributes to a Standard Life defined contribution scheme on behalf of its other staff. Employer contributions payable to that scheme were £23,309 (2023: £23,063) and at the year-end £6,255 (2023: £3,330) was accrued in respect of contributions due to the scheme.

PENNTHORPE SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	4,520,531	-	4,520,531
Current assets	870,084	-	870,084
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(784,928)	-	(784,928)
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(518,003)	-	(518,003)
	4,087,684	-	4,087,684

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Comparative Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	4,687,590	-	4,687,590
Current assets	508,780	-	508,780
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(638,998)	-	(638,998)
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(557,690)	-	(557,690)
	3,999,682	-	3,999,682

21. Restricted funds

During the year, Friends of Pennthorpe made a donation of £500 to the school to support our leavers' graduation event. They also donated £18,000 to fund some new high jump mats and lighting equipment purchased in the year. All donations received in the year were fully spent at the year end.

A further donation of £100 was made during the year by a private individual, for use of the school minibus.

22. Share capital and control

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of a winding up, each member guarantees to contribute an amount of no more than £1.

23. Related party transactions

There were no transactions with related party transactions during the current year (2023: None).

