

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 307935

Details

Other names	HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00852510
Registered	1965-10-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Phone	01732353941
Email	trust.clerk@hildenoaks.co.uk
Website	www.hildenoaks.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ('OBJECTS') ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING; A. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION THROUGH THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL AND NURSERY IN DRY HILL PARK ROAD, TONBRIDGE, KNOWN AS HILDEN OAKS PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND NURSERY. B. TO ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE, AS A GOING CONCERN, ANY OTHER SCHOOL OR NURSERY FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN EITHER IN CONNECTION WITH HILDEN OAKS PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND NURSERY OR AS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OR NURSERY. C. TO CARRY ON ANY SCHOOLS AS EDUCATIONAL CHARITIES AND TO USE AND APPLY FOR THAT PURPOSE ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE CHARITY. D. TO AWARD BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO PUPILS AND INTENDING PUPILS E. TO EQUIP, FURNISH AND MAINTAIN ANY SCHOOL, ROOMS AND OTHER BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY.

Activities: The charity's objects are to:- advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery- award bursaries and scholarships to pupils and intending pupils

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** TONBRIDGE
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£2,500,307	£2,528,395	£3,894,769	58
2024-08-31	£2,151,657	£2,364,791	£3,922,857	55
2023-08-31	£2,148,982	£2,182,129	£3,965,327	55
2022-08-31	£1,940,762	£2,032,792	£3,999,153	50
2021-08-31	£1,937,860	£1,890,898	£4,091,183	49
2020-08-31	£1,826,047	£1,970,451	£4,044,221	53

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Martin Phelps	Chair	2022-03-17
Andrew John Bowen		2025-08-11
Andrew Robbins		2023-03-09
Bramwel Kibara		2024-05-01
Caroline Parker		2025-03-27
Catherine Lupton		2025-03-27
Colin John Crawford Swainson		2016-06-22
David Brian Mills		2025-09-16
John Charles Buckles		2021-07-01
Linda Alexander		2015-11-18
Susan Bell		2024-03-01
Susan Robertson		2014-11-19
Veryan Claire Larmour		2019-03-07

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trustees	Mr M. Phelps, Chair (appointed to Chair position 3 July 2025) Mr D. R. Walker, Chair (resigned 3 July 2025) Mrs L. Alexander Mrs S. Bell Mr A. Bowen (appointed 11 August 2025) Mr J. Buckles Mr D. Eaton (resigned 27 March 2025) Mr B. Kibara Mrs V. C. Larmour Mrs C. Lupton (appointed 27 March 2025) Mr D. Mills (appointed 16 September 2025) Mrs C. Parker (appointed 27 March 2025) Mr A. Robbens Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Senior Statutory Auditor	James Mathieson FCA WP Audit Services LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 9 Mount Pleasant Road Tonbridge Wells Kent TN11 1QJ
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headteacher	Mrs S. Wade

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not necessary.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims and Vision

School Vision

To be the best future-focussed School where pupils, staff and families become kind, brave and brilliant making a positive impact on the world.

Aims

To prepare children for both independent and state secondary education by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values- based Education.

To develop pupils who are grounded in values, growing in confidence, and keen to achieve.

To create a welcoming, friendly, family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing inter-personal skills and respect for others.

To consider every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential.

To employ and develop outstanding teachers who inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards.

To involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school.

To contribute to the community through action and service, in order to build a kinder, more sustainable world.

Our Objectives

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the School.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2024-25 were:

- To support the SLT ('Senior Leadership Team') in ensuring that the School is ready for inspection under the new ISI format
- To investigate and potentially work towards introducing enquiry-based elements to the curriculum
- To support the SLT in expanding marketing and business development activity with a view to increasing external recruitment of pupils
- To further develop the succession plan for the Chair of Trustees and identify any other succession issues or skills gaps prior to recruiting new trustees

Our Achievements and Performance

In Spring 2024 the Trust appointed Mrs Sharon Wade, previously the Deputy Head, to be Head Teacher from September 2024 and a successful transition plan from Mrs Joiner, the incumbent Headteacher, was successfully implemented.

Our accreditation as a Values based Education (VbE) School was successfully renewed last year and we remain one of only two Schools in Kent to be awarded the International Values Education Trust (IVET) Values Quality Mark. We also hold the SMSC Gold Standard Award for excellence in Spiritual Moral Social & Cultural Development. In September 2025, after significant work and preparation during the previous year, the School were awarded the IT 360 Online Safety Mark from the Nationally acclaimed SWGfL. We are extremely proud of all our awards but in particular that relating to IT where we invest significantly in providing resources to all our children to equip them with the skills they need for the future while prioritising safety, wellbeing and a balance with more traditional learning methods.

Our Year 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary Schools, which included The Judd School, Radnor House, Sevenoaks School, The Skinners' School, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, Bennett Memorial (en route to Kent College), Walthamstow Hall and Weald of Kent. Four pupils were offered scholarships.

The School's preparation for inspection under the new ISI regime is built around the School Evaluation Form (SEF) which informs the School Development Plan. The Single Central Register is constantly reviewed, and safeguarding children remains our highest priority. A successful mock inspection was held in June 2025 and we welcomed the ISI inspection team in January 2026. We are pleased to have received a positive inspection for both the School and the Nursery which confirmed that all required standards had been met.

Highlights of their report included:

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

"Children positively thrive in the welcoming and nurturing setting of Hilden Oaks. Leaders and staff know the importance of understanding children's unique characters and ways of learning."

- (1) They quickly notice where children may face barriers to their learning and put in swift interventions to ensure that children achieve and develop well.
- (2) Staff build very positive attachments with children. They provide emotional security and gentle routines that provide children with reassurance and space to develop their personalities and confidence. As soon as children arrive at nursery there is a hum of busy and purposeful activity and lots of laughter and singing. Children form strong friendships and are kind and respectful towards each other.
- (3) Children develop their enthusiasm for learning from a young age. Staff are consistently on hand to join in with children's play or respond to their questions. Staff are patient and thoughtful, giving children the attention they need to succeed, while closely monitoring and carefully sequencing their learning. Through practice and perseverance, children master their skills and build their knowledge. Children demonstrate curiosity, a sense of who they are as individuals, and a joy of learning. This provides them with a positive foundation for their future learning.
- (4) Trustees ensure that leaders have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles effectively. Leaders take decisions in the best interests of pupils and strive to enable each pupil to realise their potential. The school's vision is consistently promoted by leaders and staff. The requirements of the Standards are met consistently.
- (5) The broad, balanced and engaging curriculum integrates academic, creative and technological subjects effectively. It is delivered through engaging and well-planned lessons by teachers who have secure subject knowledge. Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of the pupils. This enables pupils to build on prior knowledge and make good progress.
- (6) Leaders prioritise pupils' health, safety and wellbeing. The school is well maintained. Leaders implement comprehensive and suitable health and safety procedures, including robust supervision and medical arrangements. Leaders set high expectations for behaviour, which are consistently applied by staff. Pupils are valued and their achievements are celebrated. Leaders successfully foster a respectful and inclusive school community.
- (7) Leaders actively encourage pupils' understanding of British values such as democracy, fairness and respect, through careful curriculum planning and opportunities available across school life. Pupils' sense of responsibility is developed through opportunities to take on leadership roles and responsibilities, involvement in charitable fundraising initiatives and links forged with the local community. A diverse programme of visiting speakers gives pupils of all ages an awareness of different careers and possibilities for contributing positively to society in the future.
- (8) Safeguarding arrangements are thorough and rigorously overseen by trustees, who check that safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented effectively. Staff are suitably trained in safeguarding and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep pupils safe. Leaders respond to any safeguarding concerns that arise swiftly and appropriately.

The School has adopted a new vision statement; *"To be the best future-focussed School where pupils, staff and families become kind, brave and brilliant making a positive impact on the world"*. The new aphorism, *"Cultivating Brilliance"* will inform a wide program of marketing activity. Initially for

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2025/26 this will build on the concept of 'SuperKind' focussing on links with our local community and the positive impact extended beyond the school.

As planned Derick Walker retired as Chair of Trustees in July 2025 having supported the Head Teacher in her first successful year. Martin Phelps has succeeded him and a transition plan has been executed. One trustee resigned during the year and three new trustees were appointed. In addition, a further trustee was appointed in September 2025. We have undertaken a review of existing trustee skill-sets and are looking to bring in one further trustee to give us the best team to meet our responsibilities and support the challenges and ongoing success of the School.

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the School. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the School and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 report a net deficit of £28,088 (2024: net deficit of £42,470) after depreciation costs of £142,672 (2024: £144,016). The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the School. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £3,894,769 (2024: £3,922,857) including freehold property carried at a net book value of £4,357,233 (2024: £4,487,980).

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to a deficit of £462,464 (2024: deficit position of £565,123). In July 2020, the Trust took out a 20 year fixed rate loan of £500,000 with NatWest to help with cash flow over the development period and subsequently to boost working capital. The Trust will maintain a prudent level of cash reserves in the short term and intends to build the reserves in the longer term towards a target of 13 weeks or a full term's expenditure.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the School is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to children who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.'

Activities undertaken by the School to complement the financial support it provides to selected pupils include sponsoring training for Early Years practitioners, attendance at Remembrance Day services, carol singing and visits to local retirement homes and fund-raising for charitable causes, including the annual harvest festival.

The school also offers governance support to a local state primary school.

Financial support

During the year, the Trust supported 25 pupils (2024: 22) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £128,081 (2024: £100,738). This represents 5% (2024: 4.5%) of the School's income.

Our Plans for the Future

The trust's key objectives for 2025-26 are

- To continue to support Mrs Wade following her successful first year as Headteacher
- To support the SLT in ensuring that the School is ready for inspection under the new ISI format
- To support the further development of EYFS as a centre of excellence with almost all nursery pupils joining the main School
- To continue to promote and extend public benefit via our 'SuperKind' initiative

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction, undergo compulsory safeguarding training and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees determine general policy and provide overall management and control of the Trust.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the Headteacher, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headteacher undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk management and policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the school's income and pupil numbers in the light of the current economic situation and imposition of VAT on school fees.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Risk management and sector financial pressures

The independent education sector is going through period of considerable volatility and change.

The new Labour Government has imposed VAT on school fees from January 2025 and schools are having to consider what proportion of this additional cost to parents they can absorb. This is in addition to the removal of the 80% charitable relief on business rates. It is likely that numbers in independent schools will decline, and some schools may have to merge or close.

Inflation and interest rates are falling, but still affecting costs and parental ability to pay fees. The UK demographic trends show a 15% decline in primary school age children by 2030, exacerbated by a low fertility rate. However, this shows considerable variation by area.

Despite this, there is a market niche for small charitable independent prep schools and nurseries like Hilden Oaks, as long as they maintain a clear positioning and distinct, attractive educational offer.

We are seeing an increase in young families with two working parents who require extended hours, year-round nursery care. Demand for Early Years is therefore high (and our provision is outstanding) but difficult to fulfil due to shortages of staff. Local demographics are buoyant with new housing estates being built and migration from London.

The school budget is developed to ensure that we can continue to attract high quality teaching staff, who represent two-thirds of our expenditure. Fees are then set to cover remaining costs, taking into account likely pupil numbers, capital expenditure requirements and inflation, together with a suitable level of surplus. We also maintain competitive fees compared to our local competition.

The primary risk mitigation has been to optimise our marketing to attract new pupils, many of whom join the school from our Nursery which enjoys a pre-eminent local reputation and demand for places exceeds availability. The main school continues to operate at high-capacity levels and offers good value for money in the local catchment area.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Appointment of auditor

WP Audit Services LLP were appointed as auditor to the charitable company and in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put to a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr M. Phelps
Chair

Mr A. Robbens
Chair of the Finance Committee

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2025 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 2025 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

auditors' 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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 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.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the preparation of the financial statements of the School, and the procedures that management adopt to ensure compliance. We have considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements, and in particular we identified: the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We have also identified other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the amounts or disclosures within the financial statements, but for which compliance is fundamental to the School's operations and to avoid material penalties, including compliance with GDPR and data protection regulations, health and safety regulations concerning education establishments, food hygiene standards, safeguarding regulations concerning children in educational environments and compliance with the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Having reviewed the laws and regulations applicable to the School, we designed and performed audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Specifically, we:

- Selected a team with sector experience to perform the audit;
- Obtained an understanding of the School's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations;

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

- Obtained and reviewed internal policy and procedure documents;
- Made enquiries of management and the Trustees regarding whether they were aware of any actual or suspected incidences of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Obtained and reviewed meeting minutes;
- Obtained and reviewed correspondence with the regulator;
- Reviewed legal expenses accounts for indications of any possible non-compliance; and
- Reviewed the completeness and accuracy of any disclosures made in the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the School's financial statements to material misstatement, including considering how fraud might occur. This was performed by:

- Making an assessment of the School's control environment, systems and controls including identifying any weaknesses and considering the risk of management override of controls;
- Considering whether there are any incentives or opportunities for management to manipulate financial results;
- Obtaining and evaluating the Trustees' assessment of the risk of fraud, and enquiring as to whether they are aware of any actual or suspected incidences of fraud;
- Reviewing the accounting policies and accounting estimates for signs of management bias; and
- Identifying key risks relating to irregularities as relating to revenue recognition including fraud, and management override of controls.

We then designed audit procedures in response to the risks identified, including conducting substantive analytical procedures and performing substantive testing on all material income streams, reviewing journal entries, accounting estimates and significant transactions for signs of bias.

The audit has been planned and performed in accordance with auditing standards, however, because of the inherent limitations of audit procedures there remains a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those that may lead to material misstatements in the financial statements. There are inherent difficulties in detecting irregularities, and irregularities that result from fraud may be more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error, for example due to concealment, override of controls, collusion or misrepresentations. In addition, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less audit procedures are able to identify it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Use of our report

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

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL
TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Mathieson FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

WP Audit Services LLP

Statutory Auditors, Chartered Accountants
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date:

7 April 2026

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

		2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds As restated £
Income from:			
Donations		1,638	760
Charitable activities	3	2,489,125	2,383,768
Bank interest		9,544	5,750
Total		2,500,307	2,390,278
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities:			
Direct costs	4	2,023,176	1,909,534
Support costs	5	362,547	379,198
Depreciation	6	142,672	144,016
Total		2,528,395	2,432,748
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		(28,088)	(42,470)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		3,922,857	3,965,327
Total funds carried forward		3,894,769	3,922,857

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		4,357,233		4,487,980
Current assets					
Stocks		1,198		2,338	
Debtors	9	568,498		462,464	
Cash at bank and in hand		483,308		786,817	
		<u>1,053,004</u>		<u>1,251,619</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(956,481)</u>		<u>(1,044,013)</u>	
Net current assets			96,523		207,606
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,453,756</u>		<u>4,695,586</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11		<u>(558,987)</u>		<u>(772,729)</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>3,894,769</u></u>		<u><u>3,922,857</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>3,894,769</u>		<u>3,922,857</u>
			<u><u>3,894,769</u></u>		<u><u>3,922,857</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 March 2026 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mr M. Phelps
Chair

Mr A. Robbins
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	A	(282,689)	712,698
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		9,544	5,750
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(11,925)	(45,857)
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,381)	(40,107)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of bank borrowings		(18,439)	(20,819)
Net cash used in financing activities		(18,439)	(20,819)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(303,509)	651,772
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		786,817	135,045
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		483,308	786,817
		2025	2024
		£	£
A. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year		(28,088)	(42,470)
Depreciation charges		142,672	144,015
Bank interest		(9,544)	(5,750)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		1,140	(333)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(106,034)	187,672
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(282,835)	429,564
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(282,689)	712,698
B. Analysis of changes in net debt		Cash	Bank loans
		£	£
At start of year		786,817	(453,919)
Cash flows		(303,509)	18,439
At the end of the year		483,308	(435,480)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees are shown net of bursaries within income from charitable activities. Other school income includes income for school trips, wrap-around care including after school clubs and extra-curricular activities. The income is recognised in line with when the service, trip or club occurs.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis

New freehold building additions have been analysed based on their comprising components as follows:

Main fabric (including roof)	50 years on the straight line basis
Windows & external doors	25 years on the straight line basis
Mechanical and electrical	20 -25 years on the straight line basis
Bathroom fittings	10 years on the straight line basis
Kitchen fittings	10 years on the straight line basis

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments, including bank loans, are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits and school fees paid in advance due greater than 1 year at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teachers and other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Leasing

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

Restatement of prior period comparatives

During the preparation of these financial statements it was identified that the prior period costs of school outings and after school clubs had been net off against the related income charged to parents. The prior period figures have therefore been restated. There is no impact on the surplus at 31 August 2024 or the opening reserves at 1 September 2023. However there is an increase in income from donations by £760, an increase in income from charitable activities by £67,197 and an increase in direct costs by £67,957.

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
		As restated
School fees	2,455,818	2,329,128
Bursaries and other financial support	(128,081)	(100,738)
Other school income	161,388	155,378
	2,489,125	2,383,768

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES- DIRECT COSTS

	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
		As restated
Staff costs	1,545,564	1,438,242
Food and housekeeping	213,326	212,179
School and Nursery resources	57,496	53,872
IT expenses	42,737	39,438
Repairs and maintenance	45,878	37,625
School club costs	30,264	26,859
Utilities	28,568	31,351
School trip costs	21,560	22,886
Other direct costs	14,086	14,511
Facilities hire	10,358	7,752
Minibus expenses	2,863	8,561
Staff training	2,419	9,825
Childcare booking management	8,476	6,433
Bad and doubtful debts	(419)	-
	<u>2,023,176</u>	<u>1,909,534</u>

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES- SUPPORT COSTS

	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
		As restated
Staff costs	230,651	232,060
Insurance	33,215	30,610
Rates	24,186	8,324
Loan interest	17,360	18,119
Marketing	13,406	24,314
Health and safety	10,080	11,520
Subscriptions and membership fees	9,005	7,495
Other staff costs	4,881	9,011
Recruitment	3,062	13,659
Other costs	2,114	2,945
Bank charges	1,548	1,557
Recoverable VAT	(13,252)	-
Governance costs:		
Legal and professional fees	11,241	8,584
Auditors' remuneration	8,880	8,000
Auditors' non-audit fees	6,170	3,000
	362,547	379,198

6 NET EXPENDITURE AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net expenditure and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	142,672	144,016
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	8,880	8,000
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	6,170	3,000
Operating lease rentals	-	366

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
		As restated
Gross salaries	1,500,738	1,393,591
Employer's pension contributions	118,438	110,792
Employer's National Insurance contributions	138,599	121,010
Group life and protection insurance	15,616	16,585
Supply and freelance	2,824	28,324
	<u>1,776,215</u>	<u>1,670,302</u>

The number of employees whose employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2025	2024
Teaching staff	50	50
Domestic staff	2	2
Administrative staff	6	7
	<u>58</u>	<u>59</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property</i>	<i>Motor vehicles</i>	<i>Fixtures and fittings</i>	<i>Computer equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	4,716,898	34,284	288,334	207,640	5,247,156
Additions	-	-	-	11,925	11,925
At 31 August 2025	4,716,898	34,284	288,334	219,565	5,259,081
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	412,165	22,010	171,777	153,224	759,176
Charged for the year	87,813	4,091	25,300	25,468	142,672
At 31 August 2025	499,978	26,101	197,077	178,692	901,848
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	4,216,920	8,183	91,257	40,873	4,357,233
At 31 August 2024	4,304,733	12,274	116,557	54,416	4,487,980

Freehold property includes land at cost of £87,152 (2024: £87,152) which is not depreciated.

The bank loan disclosed in notes 10 and 11 is secured by way of a fixed charge over the freehold property.

9 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	488,801	377,769
Prepayments and accrued income	72,861	73,719
Other debtors	6,836	10,976
	568,498	462,464

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loan	19,193	17,754
Trade creditors	60,648	52,826
Tax and social security	103,091	28,425
Parent deposits	7,000	9,000
Accruals and deferred income	758,889	920,156
Other creditors	7,660	15,852
	<u>956,481</u>	<u>1,044,013</u>

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund. Amounts due at the balance sheet date totalled £Nil (2024: £14,133), these are included within other creditors.

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 September 2024	1,144,760	751,965
Released to income	(879,560)	(751,965)
Received in the year	528,658	1,144,760
At 31 August 2025	<u>793,858</u>	<u>1,144,760</u>
This balance is made up of:		
Deferred income due in less than one year	723,658	879,560
Deferred income due in more than one year (Note 11)	70,200	265,200
At 31 August 2025	<u>793,858</u>	<u>1,144,760</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loan	416,287	436,165
Parent deposits	72,500	71,364
Deferred income	70,200	265,200
	<u>558,987</u>	<u>772,729</u>

The bank loan is repayable over 20 years. The interest rate on the loan is fixed over the period at 3.89%. The loan is secured by a first legal charge over the school property. Of the above bank loan balance £334,632 (2024: £356,236) is due in greater than five years.

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £322,685 (2024: £323,232).

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustees	Mr D. R. Walker, Chair Mr M. Phelps, Vice Chair Mrs L. Alexander Mrs S. Bell (appointed 4 March 2024) Mr J. Buckles Mr D. Eaton Mr W. Faure-Walker (resigned 19 February 2024) Mr B. Kibara (appointed 1 May 2024) Mrs V. C. Larmour Mr A. Robbens Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Senior Statutory Auditor	Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 9 Mount Pleasant Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1QJ
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headteacher	Mrs S. Wade (from 1 st September 2024) Mrs K Joiner (to 31 st August 2024)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not necessary.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims

- to prepare children for secondary education (in both state and independent schools) by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values-based Education.
- to develop children who are grounded in values, growing in confidence, and keen to achieve.
- to create a welcoming, friendly, family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing inter-personal skills and respect for others.
- to consider every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential.
- to employ and develop outstanding teachers who can inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards.
- to involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school.
- to contribute to the community through action and service, in order to build a kinder, more sustainable world.
- to provide a benefit to the public in accordance with our charitable status.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Our Objectives

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the school.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2023-24 were:

- To support the SLT in ensuring that the school is ready for inspection under the new ISI format
- To investigate and potentially work towards adopting a more enquiry-based curriculum
- To support the SLT in expanding marketing and business development activity with a view to increasing external recruitment
- To further develop the succession plan for the Chair of Trustees and identify any other succession issues or skills gaps prior to recruiting new trustees

Our Achievements and Performance

Mrs Katy Joiner, who had been Headmistress since 2015, resigned to take up a new post in Milton Keynes. The Trust appointed Mrs Sharon Wade, previously the Deputy Head, to be Head Teacher from September 2024 and a transition plan was implemented.

Our accreditation as a Values based Education (VbE) school was successfully renewed last year. Hilden Oaks is one of only two schools in Kent to be awarded the International Values Education Trust (IVET) Values Quality Mark. We were also re-awarded the SMSC Gold Standard Award for excellence in Spiritual Moral Social & Cultural Development.

Our Year 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary schools, which included Bennett Memorial, The Judd School, Radnor House, The Skinners' School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, Walthamstow Hall and Weald of Kent. Two pupils were offered scholarships.

The school's preparation for inspection under the new ISI regime was built around the School Evaluation Form (SEF) and the Single Central Register was upgraded to ensure greater resilience. A successful mock inspection was held in June 2024.

The trustees agreed to investigate the IB Primary Years Program (PYP) as a new curriculum framework more in keeping with modern pedagogy, preparation for secondary education and future employer requirements / life skills. The school has made an initial application made to become a candidate school for PYP, SLT and Trustees have made three school visits and an IB liaison contact has been established

Stickman Consultancy were appointed to conduct a full marketing and communications audit. As a result, the school has adopted a new vision statement; *"To be the best future-focussed school where pupils, staff and families become kind, brave and brilliant making a positive impact on the world"*. The new school motto, *"Cultivating Brilliance"* will inform a wide program of marketing activity.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Derick Walker agreed to continue as Chair of Trustees until July 2025 to support Mrs Wade in her first year as Head Teacher. Martin Phelps agreed to succeed him for the 2025-26 academic year and a transition plan is in hand. Two new trustees have been identified.

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the school has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the school. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the school and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 report a net deficit of £42,470 (2023: net deficit of £33,147). The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the school. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £3,922,857 (2023: £3,965,327) including freehold property carried at a net book value of £4,487,980 (2023: £4,586,138).

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to a deficit of £565,123 (2023: deficit position of £620,811). In July 2020, the Trust took out a 20 year fixed rate loan of £500,000 with NatWest to help with cash flow over the development period and subsequently to boost working capital. The Trust will maintain a prudent level of cash reserves in the short term and intends to build the reserves in the longer term towards a target of 13 weeks or a full term's expenditure.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the school is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to boys and girls who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.'

Activities undertaken by the school to complement the financial support it provides to selected pupils included sponsoring training for Early Years practitioners, attendance at Remembrance Day services, carol singing and visits to local retirement homes and fund-raising for charitable causes, including the annual harvest festival.

Financial bursaries and scholarships

During the year, the Trust supported 22 pupils (2023: 14) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy. In addition, the School awards sports and music scholarships based on individual merit and potential.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £100,738 (2023: £108,778). This represents 4.5% (2023: 5.0%) of the school's income.

Our Plans for the Future

The trust's key objectives for 2024-25 are

- To support Mrs Wade in her first year as the new Headteacher
- To develop comprehensive plans for the imposition of VAT on school fees, with options in case of a serious reduction in pupil numbers
- To support the SLT in developing a successful application for candidate status as an IB school offering the PYP curriculum
- To support the further development of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as a centre of excellence with a significant proportion of pupils joining the main school

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction, undergo compulsory safeguarding training and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees determine general policy and provide overall management and control of the Trust.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the Headteacher, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headteacher undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk management and policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the school's income and pupil numbers in the light of the current economic situation and imposition of VAT on school fees.

Risk management and sector financial pressures

The independent education sector is going through period of considerable volatility and change.

The new Labour Government has imposed VAT on school fees from January 2025 and schools are having to consider what proportion of this additional cost to parents they can absorb. This is in addition to the removal of the 80% charitable relief on business rates. It is likely that numbers in independent schools will decline, and some schools may have to merge or close.

Inflation and interest rates are falling, but still affecting costs and parental ability to pay fees. The UK demographic trends show a 15% decline in primary school age children by 2030, exacerbated by a low fertility rate. However, this shows considerable variation by area.

Despite this, there is a market niche for small charitable independent prep schools and nurseries like Hilden Oaks, as long as they maintain a clear positioning and distinct, attractive educational offer.

We are seeing an increase in young families with two working parents who require extended hours, year-round nursery care. Demand for Early Years is therefore high (and our provision is outstanding) but difficult to fulfil due to shortages of staff. Local demographics are buoyant with new housing estates being built and migration from London.

The school budget is developed to ensure that we can continue to attract high quality teaching staff, who represent two-thirds of our expenditure. Fees are then set to cover remaining costs, taking into account likely pupil numbers, capital expenditure requirements and inflation, together with a suitable level of surplus. We also maintain competitive fees compared to our local competition.

The primary risk mitigation has been to optimise our marketing to attract new pupils, many of whom join the school from our Nursery which enjoys a pre-eminent local reputation and demand for places exceeds availability. The main school continues to operate at high-capacity levels and offers good value for money in the local catchment area.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chairman

Mr A. Robbens
Chair of the Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2024 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 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.

We draw your attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which explains that the trustees consider the charitable company to be a going concern based on its forecasts for the next two years and contingencies it has in place.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditors' 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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 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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the preparation of the financial statements of the School, and the procedures that management adopt to ensure compliance. We have considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements, and in particular we identified: the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We have also identified other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the amounts or disclosures within the financial statements, but for which compliance is fundamental to the School's operations and to avoid material penalties, including compliance with GDPR and data protection regulations, health and safety regulations concerning education establishments, food hygiene standards, safeguarding regulations concerning children in educational environments and compliance with the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Having reviewed the laws and regulations applicable to the School, we designed and performed audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Specifically, we:

- Selected a team with sector experience to perform the audit;
- Obtained an understanding of the School's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations;
- Obtained and reviewed internal policy and procedure documents;
- Made enquiries of management and the Trustees regarding whether they were aware of any actual or suspected incidences of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Obtained and reviewed meeting minutes;
- Obtained and reviewed correspondence with the regulator;
- Reviewed legal expenses accounts for indications of any possible non-compliance; and
- Reviewed the completeness and accuracy of any disclosures made in the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the School's financial statements to material misstatement, including considering how fraud might occur. This was performed by:

- Making an assessment of the School's control environment, systems and controls including identifying any weaknesses and considering the risk of management override of controls;
- Assessing the susceptibility of the School's financial statements to material misstatement, including considering how fraud could occur;
- Considering whether there are any incentives or opportunities for management to manipulate financial results;
- Obtaining and evaluating the Trustees' assessment of the risk of fraud, and enquiring as to whether they are aware of any actual or suspected incidences of fraud;
- Reviewing the accounting policies and accounting estimates for signs of management bias; and
- Identifying key risks relating to irregularities as relating to revenue recognition including fraud, and management override of controls.

We then designed audit procedures in response to the risks identified, including conducting substantive analytical procedures and performing substantive testing on all material income streams, reviewing journal entries, accounting estimates and significant transactions for signs of bias.

The audit has been planned and performed in accordance with auditing standards, however, because of the inherent limitations of audit procedures there remains a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those that may lead to material misstatements in the financial statements. There are inherent difficulties in detecting irregularities, and irregularities that result from fraud may be more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error, for example due to concealment, override of controls, collusion or misrepresentations. In addition, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less audit procedures are able to identify it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL
TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Statutory Auditors, Chartered Accountants
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: 5 December 2024

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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

	Note	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income from:			
Grants and donations		-	517
Charitable activities	3	2,316,571	2,145,907
Bank interest		5,750	2,558
Total		<u>2,322,321</u>	<u>2,148,982</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	<u>2,364,791</u>	<u>2,182,129</u>
Total		<u>2,364,791</u>	<u>2,182,129</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>(42,470)</u>	<u>(33,147)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,965,327</u>	<u>3,998,474</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>3,922,857</u></u>	<u><u>3,965,327</u></u>

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		4,487,980		4,586,138
Current assets					
Stocks		2,338		2,005	
Debtors	8	462,464		650,136	
Cash at bank and in hand		786,817		135,045	
		<u>1,251,619</u>		<u>787,186</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(1,044,013)</u>		<u>(877,627)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>207,606</u>		<u>(90,441)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,695,586</u>		<u>4,495,697</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(772,729)</u>		<u>(530,370)</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>3,922,857</u></u>		<u><u>3,965,327</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>3,922,857</u>		<u>3,965,327</u>
			<u><u>3,922,857</u></u>		<u><u>3,965,327</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chair

Mr A. Robbins
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	A	712,698	(18,465)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		5,750	2,558
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(45,857)	(55,754)
Net cash used in investing activities		(40,107)	(53,196)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of bank borrowings		(20,819)	(18,300)
Net cash used in financing activities		(20,819)	(18,300)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		651,772	(89,961)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		135,045	225,006
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		786,817	135,045
A. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities		2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year		(42,470)	(33,147)
Depreciation charges		144,015	142,595
Bank interest		(5,750)	(2,558)
Increase in stocks		(333)	(614)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors		187,672	(592,843)
Increase in creditors		429,564	468,102
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		712,698	(18,465)
B. Analysis of changes in net debt		Cash £	Bank loans £
At start of year		135,045	(474,738)
Cash flows		651,772	20,819
At the end of the year		786,817	(453,919)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Following the Government's implementation of its policy for independent schools to charge VAT on its fees from January 2025 the Trust has updated its modelling with regard to its costs and income (income is driven by known and expected pupil numbers) and is therefore in a position to budget a positive cashflow position for at least the next two years. A number of contingencies have been identified should pupil numbers not match expectations. The Trustees therefore consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees receivable are shown net of bursaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis

New freehold building additions have been analysed based on their comprising components as follows:

Main fabric (including roof)	50 years on the straight line basis
Windows & external doors	25 years on the straight line basis
Mechanical and electrical	20 -25 years on the straight line basis
Bathroom fittings	10 years on the straight line basis
Kitchen fittings	10 years on the straight line basis

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments, including bank loans, are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits and school fees paid in advance due greater than 1 year at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teachers and other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Leasing

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

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
School fees receivable	2,405,789	2,241,008
Other school income	11,520	13,677
Bursaries and other financial support	(100,738)	(108,778)
	<u>2,316,571</u>	<u>2,145,907</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Staff costs	1,423,964	1,282,317
Food and housekeeping	212,179	188,294
IT expenses	39,438	43,819
Repairs and maintenance	37,625	43,460
Stationery, books and materials	53,872	51,377
Utilities	31,351	27,116
Other direct costs	10,577	22,055
Facilities hire	7,752	10,829
Minibus expenses	8,561	7,992
Teacher training	9,825	7,978
Childcare booking management	6,433	-
Bad and doubtful debts	-	10,163
Support costs allocated	523,214	486,729
	<u>2,364,791</u>	<u>2,182,129</u>

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Support costs comprise:		
Staff costs	232,060	220,791
Recruitment	13,659	6,182
Insurance	30,610	28,937
Health and safety	11,520	11,520
Printing, post and stationery	935	611
Other staff costs	9,011	8,282
Marketing	24,314	14,799
Rates	8,324	5,188
Subscriptions and membership fees	7,495	5,753
Other costs	2,010	3,481
Depreciation	144,016	142,595
Bank charges	1,557	1,585
Loan interest	18,119	17,647
Governance costs:		
Auditors' remuneration	8,000	7,500
Auditors' non-audit fees	3,000	3,000
Legal and professional fees	8,584	8,858
	<u>523,214</u>	<u>486,729</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 NET EXPENDITURE AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net expenditure and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	144,016	142,595
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	8,000	7,500
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	3,000	3,000
Operating lease rentals	366	4,392
	<u>155,382</u>	<u>157,487</u>

6 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross salaries	1,379,313	1,254,612
Employer's pension contributions	110,792	102,811
Employer's National Insurance contributions	121,010	111,786
Group life and protection insurance	16,585	14,300
Supply and freelance	28,324	19,599
	<u>1,656,024</u>	<u>1,503,108</u>

The number of employees whose employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

At the balance sheet date pension contributions unpaid amounted to £14,133 (2023: £13,274).

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2024	2023
Teaching staff	50	47
Domestic staff	2	2
Administrative staff	7	6
	<u>59</u>	<u>55</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property</i>	<i>Motor vehicles</i>	<i>Fixtures and fittings</i>	<i>Computer equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	4,716,898	17,919	288,073	243,570	5,266,460
Additions	-	16,365	3,714	25,778	45,857
Disposals	-	-	(3,453)	(61,708)	(65,161)
At 31 August 2024	4,716,898	34,284	288,334	207,640	5,247,156
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	324,352	17,919	149,752	188,299	680,322
Charged for the year	87,813	4,091	25,478	26,633	144,015
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(3,453)	(61,708)	(65,161)
At 31 August 2024	412,165	22,010	171,777	153,224	759,176
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	4,304,733	12,274	116,557	54,416	4,487,980
At 31 August 2023	4,392,546	-	138,321	55,271	4,586,138

Freehold property includes land at cost of £87,152 (2023: £87,152) which is not depreciated.

The bank loan disclosed in notes 9 and 10 is secured by way of a fixed charge over the freehold property.

8 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	377,769	591,563
Prepayments and accrued income	73,719	52,794
Other debtors	10,976	5,779
	462,464	650,136

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loan	17,754	17,732
Trade creditors	52,826	24,008
Tax and social security	28,425	29,428
Parent deposits	9,000	7,000
Accruals and deferred income	920,156	786,500
Other creditors	15,852	12,959
	<u>1,044,013</u>	<u>877,627</u>

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund. Amounts due at the balance sheet date totalled £14,133 (2023: £13,247), these are included within tax and social security.

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	751,965	224,545
Released to income	(751,965)	(224,545)
Received in the year and deferred less than one year	879,560	751,965
Received in the year and deferred more than one year	265,200	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,144,760</u>	<u>751,965</u>

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loan	436,165	457,006
Parent deposits	71,364	73,364
Deferred income	265,200	-
	<u>772,729</u>	<u>530,370</u>

The bank loan is repayable over 20 years. The interest rate on the loan is fixed over the period at 3.89%. The loan is secured by a first legal charge over the school property. Of the above bank loan balance £356,236 (2023: £377,941) is due in greater than five years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2024 the charity was committed to future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year	-	366

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team.

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

During the year, the daughter of the Bursar of the school was paid £Nil (2023: £1,007) in relation to her role as an early years practitioner.

During the year, John Buckles, a trustee of the charity, was paid £Nil (2023: £13,025) in relation to bursar support.

The school offers discounted student fees for pupils of parents employed as teachers at The Tonbridge School. No trustees benefitted from this discount in the year (2023: One trustee: £3,607).

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £323,232 (2023: £302,895).

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trustees	Mr D. R. Walker, Chairman Mr D. Eaton, Vice Chairman Mrs L. Alexander Mr J. Buckles Mr W. Faure-Walker Mrs G. Harrison (retired 25 May 2023) Mrs V. C. Larmour Mr M. Phelps Mrs E. C. Pocock (retired 27 May 2023) Mr A. Robbins (appointed 9 March 2023) Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Senior Statutory Auditor	Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 130 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1DE
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headmistress	Mrs K. Joiner NNEB BEd (Hons) QTS MEd

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims

- to prepare children for secondary education (in both state and independent schools) by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values - based Education
- to create a friendly family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing good manners and respect for others
- to treat every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential, gaining confidence and maturity as they progress
- to employ outstanding teachers who can inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards
- to involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school
- to provide a benefit to the public in accordance with our charitable status.

Our Objectives

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the school.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2022-23 were:

- To support the SLT in preparing for a successful compliance inspection
- To support the school's applications to renew Values VbE accreditation and its SMSC Gold Standard Award
- To consider how the school could become fully sustainable in terms of education, finance, staff development, public benefit, social and environmental criteria
- To support the SLT in reviewing the current Bursary structure and make additional resources available if needed
- To develop a succession plan for the Chair of Trustees and identify any other succession issues or skills gaps prior to recruiting new trustees

Our Achievements and Performance

The school passed its ISI compliance inspection in March 2023. There will be a new inspection framework from September 2023 and work is already in progress to ensure the school is compliant.

Our accreditation as a Values based Education (VbE) school was successfully renewed. Hilden Oaks is one of only two schools in Kent to be awarded the International Values Education Trust (IVET) Values Quality Mark. We were also re-awarded the SMSC Gold Standard Award for excellence in Spiritual Moral Social & Cultural Development.

The structure and working practices of the bursary were reviewed and its recommendations implemented. A new position of HR Manager has been created and successfully filled. The Single Central Register has been upgraded to ensure greater resilience.

Our Year 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary schools, which included Bethany, Hillview, Invicta Grammar, The Judd School, Kent College, Radnor House, Tonbridge Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar, Uplands, Walthamstow Hall and Weald of Kent. Four pupils were offered scholarships.

In May, we celebrated the King's Coronation with a Creative Curriculum day which provided the pupils with an opportunity to reflect on the rich legacy that continues to define us as a nation and shapes our cultural evolution.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the school has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the school. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the school and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 report a net deficit of £33,147 (2022: net deficit of £92,709). The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the school. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £3,965,327 (2022: £3,998,474) including freehold property carried at a cost of £4,586,138 (2022: £4,672,979).

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to a deficit of £621,999 (2022: deficit position of £674,505). In July 2020, the Trust took out a 20 year fixed rate loan of £500,000 with NatWest to help with cash flow over the development period and subsequently to boost working capital. The Trust will maintain a prudent level of cash reserves in the short term and intends to build the reserves in the longer term towards a target of 13 weeks or a full term's expenditure.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the school is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to boys and girls who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.' A report is made annually to the full Trust detailing the activities undertaken throughout the year. The School takes special note of the guidance from the Charity Commission, which emphasises the benefit in "sharing facilities, expertise and perspectives with colleagues from local (state) schools".

The School continues to develop its links with Leigh Primary School where our headmistress is on the governing body. We continue to explore opportunities for further cooperation between our two schools. This work advances our broader educational aims and we believe that the exchange of ideas is mutually beneficial.

Other activities undertaken by the school to complement the financial support it provides to selected pupils included sponsoring training for Early Years practitioners, attendance at Remembrance Day services, carol singing and visits to local retirement homes.

Financial bursaries and scholarships

During the year, the Trust supported 14 pupils (2022: 12) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy. In addition, the School awards sports and music scholarships based on individual merit and potential.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £108,778 (2022: £99,172). This represents 5.0% (2022: 5.0%) of the school's income.

Our Plans for the Future

The trustees held a strategic awayday in May 2023 to consider how the school could become fully sustainable in terms of education, finance, staff development, public benefit, social and environmental criteria. The main outcomes from the day were:

- To investigate and potentially adopt a more enquiry-based curriculum in keeping with modern pedagogy, preparation for secondary education and future employer requirements / life skills
- To build on the EYFS' current position as a centre of excellence and main school feeder by increasing staffing and resources, including the provision of wrap around care
- To expand marketing and business development activity to increase external recruitment
- To investigate new ways of using IT to enhance teaching and learning and drive operational efficiencies

These have been incorporated into a new Five Year Strategic Plan 2023-28.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees determine general policy and provide overall management and control of the Trust.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the headmistress, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headmistress undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headmistress and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk management and policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the school's income and pupil numbers in the light of the current economic situation.

Risk management and sector financial pressures

The independent education sector is going through period of considerable volatility and change.

The prospect of a Labour Government in 2024/25 is increasingly likely, with a policy of removing or reducing the VAT exemption on school fees. In addition, high inflation and interest rates are affecting costs and parental ability to pay fees. The UK demographic trends show a 15% decline in primary school age children by 2030, exacerbated by a low fertility rate. Overall numbers in independent schools remain stable, but a significant proportion are showing falling school rolls and several have had to close.

Despite this, there is a market niche for small charitable independent prep schools and nurseries like Hilden Oaks, as long as they maintain a clear positioning and distinct, attractive educational offer.

The pandemic showed the vulnerability of the state sector in providing a continuous education during lockdown and many schools have had to close again with teachers going on strike. Post pandemic working practices have changed and we are seeing an increase in young families with two working parents who require extended hours, year-round nursery care. Demand for Early Years is therefore high (and our provision is outstanding) but difficult to fulfil due to shortages of staff. Local demographics are buoyant with new housing estates being built and migration from London.

The school budget is developed to ensure that we can continue to attract high quality teaching staff, who represent two-thirds of our expenditure. Fees are then set to cover remaining costs, taking into account likely pupil numbers, capital expenditure requirements and inflation, together with a suitable level of surplus.

The primary risk mitigation has been to optimise our marketing to attract new pupils, many of whom join the school from our Nursery which enjoys a pre-eminent local reputation and demand for places exceeds availability. The main school continues to operate at high capacity levels and offers good value for money in the local catchment area.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 28 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chairman

Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2023 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditors' 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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 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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the preparation of the financial statements of the School, and the procedures that management adopt to ensure compliance. We have considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements, and in particular we identified: the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We have also identified other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the amounts or disclosures within the financial statements, but for which compliance is fundamental to the School's operations and to avoid material penalties, including compliance with GDPR and data protection regulations, health and safety regulations concerning education establishments, food hygiene standards, safeguarding regulations concerning children in educational environments and compliance with the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Having reviewed the laws and regulations applicable to the School, we designed and performed audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Specifically, we:

- Selected a team with sector experience to perform the audit;
- Obtained an understanding of the School's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations;
- Obtained and reviewed internal policy and procedure documents;
- Made enquiries of management and the trustees regarding whether they were aware of any actual or suspected incidences of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Obtained and reviewed meeting minutes;
- Obtained and reviewed correspondence with the regulator;
- Reviewed legal expenses accounts for indications of any possible non-compliance; and
- Reviewed the completeness and accuracy of any disclosures made in the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the School's financial statements to material misstatement, including considering how fraud might occur. This was performed by:

- Making an assessment of the School's control environment, systems and controls including identifying any weaknesses and considering the risk of management override of controls;
- Assessing the susceptibility of the School's financial statements to material misstatement, including considering how fraud could occur;
- Considering whether there are any incentives or opportunities for management to manipulate financial results;
- Obtaining and evaluating the trustees' assessment of the risk of fraud, and enquiring as to whether they are aware of any actual or suspected incidences of fraud;
- Reviewing the accounting policies and accounting estimates for signs of management bias; and
- Identifying key risks relating to irregularities as relating to revenue recognition including fraud, and management override of controls.

We then designed audit procedures in response to the risks identified, including performing substantive testing on all material income streams and reviewing journal entries and accounting estimates.

The audit has been planned and performed in accordance with auditing standards, however, because of the inherent limitations of audit procedures there remains a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those that may lead to material misstatements in the financial statements. There are inherent difficulties in detecting irregularities, and irregularities that result from fraud may be more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error, for example due to concealment, override of controls, collusion or misrepresentations. In addition, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less audit procedures are able to identify it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL
TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Statutory Auditors, Chartered Accountants
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: 14/12/2023

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from:			
Grants and donations		517	-
Charitable activities	3	2,145,907	1,940,538
Bank interest		2,558	224
Total		<u>2,148,982</u>	<u>1,940,762</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	<u>2,182,129</u>	<u>2,033,471</u>
Total		<u>2,182,129</u>	<u>2,033,471</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>(33,147)</u>	<u>(92,709)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,998,474</u>	<u>4,091,183</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>3,965,327</u></u>	<u><u>3,998,474</u></u>

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		4,586,138		4,672,979
Current assets					
Stocks		2,005		1,391	
Debtors	8	650,136		57,293	
Cash at bank and in hand		135,045		225,006	
		<u>787,186</u>		<u>283,690</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(877,627)</u>		<u>(408,315)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>(90,441)</u>		<u>(124,625)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			4,495,697		4,548,354
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(530,370)</u>		<u>(549,880)</u>
Total net assets			<u>3,965,327</u>		<u>3,998,474</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>3,965,327</u>		<u>3,998,474</u>
			<u>3,965,327</u>		<u>3,998,474</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 November 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chair

Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(18,465)	(148,941)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		2,558	224
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(55,754)	(1,608,961)
Net cash used in investing activities		(53,196)	(1,608,737)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of bank borrowings		(18,300)	(6,962)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	500,000
Net cash provided by financing activities		(18,300)	493,038
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(89,961)	(1,264,640)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		225,006	1,489,646
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		135,045	225,006
A. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year		(33,147)	(92,709)
Depreciation charges		142,595	103,807
Bank interest		(2,558)	(224)
(Increase) / decrease in stocks		(614)	1,541
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(592,843)	333,887
(Decrease) in creditors		468,102	(495,243)
Net cash used in operating activities		(18,465)	(148,941)
B. Analysis of changes in net debt			
		Cash £	Bank loans £
At start of year		225,006	(493,038)
Cash flows		(89,961)	18,300
Net debt at the end of the year		135,045	(474,738)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The Trust has reasonable assumptions around costs and income (income is driven by known and expected pupil numbers) and is therefore in a position to budget a positive cashflow position for at least the next two years. The Trustees therefore consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees receivable are shown net of bursaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis

New freehold building additions have been analysed based on their comprising components as follows:

Main fabric (including roof)	50 years on the straight line basis
Windows & external doors	25 years on the straight line basis
Mechanical and electrical	20 -25 years on the straight line basis
Bathroom fittings	10 years on the straight line basis
Kitchen fittings	10 years on the straight line basis

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments, including bank loans, are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teachers and other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

Leasing

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
School fees receivable	2,241,008	2,025,117
Other school income	13,677	14,593
Bursaries, scholarships and Covid-19 fee reductions	(108,778)	(99,172)
	<u>2,145,907</u>	<u>1,940,538</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs	1,282,317	1,217,266
Food and housekeeping	188,294	183,255
IT expenses	42,361	49,260
Repairs and maintenance	43,460	38,045
Stationery, books and materials	51,377	46,059
Utilities	27,116	26,643
Other direct costs	22,055	24,501
Facilities hire	10,829	17,852
Minibus expenses	7,992	8,861
Teacher training	7,978	9,079
Bad and doubtful debts	10,163	(9,840)
Support costs allocated	488,187	422,490
	<u>2,182,129</u>	<u>2,033,471</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Support costs comprise:		
Staff costs	220,791	194,142
Recruitment	6,182	4,574
Insurance	28,937	31,424
Health and safety	11,520	11,520
Printing, post and stationery	611	8,395
Other staff costs	8,282	10,590
Marketing	14,799	14,680
Rates	5,188	7,243
Subscriptions and membership fees	5,753	6,314
Telephone and communication	1,458	1,370
Other costs	3,481	941
Depreciation	142,595	103,806
Bank charges	1,585	1,487
Loan interest	17,647	8,016
Governance costs:		
Auditors' remuneration	7,500	6,900
Auditors' non-audit fees	3,000	2,113
Legal and professional fees	8,858	8,975
	<u>488,187</u>	<u>422,490</u>

5 NET EXPENDITURE AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	142,595	103,806
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	7,500	6,900
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	3,000	2,113
Operating lease rentals	<u>4,392</u>	<u>4,392</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross salaries	1,254,612	1,189,179
Employer's pension contributions	102,811	97,898
Employer's National Insurance contributions	111,786	107,855
Group life and protection insurance	14,300	12,370
Supply and freelance	19,599	4,106
	<u>1,503,108</u>	<u>1,411,408</u>

The number of employees whose employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

At the balance sheet date pension contributions unpaid amounted to £13,274 (2022: £12,163).

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2023	2022
Teaching staff	47	42
Domestic staff	2	2
Administrative staff	6	6
	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property</i>	<i>Motor vehicles</i>	<i>Fixtures and fittings</i>	<i>Computer equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	4,711,405	17,919	282,678	208,966	5,220,968
Additions	5,493	-	15,657	34,604	55,754
Disposals	-	-	(10,262)	-	(10,262)
At 31 August 2023	4,716,898	17,919	288,073	243,570	5,266,460
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	236,539	17,919	135,013	158,518	547,989
Charged for the year	87,813	-	25,001	29,781	142,595
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(10,262)	-	(10,262)
At 31 August 2023	324,352	17,919	149,752	188,299	680,322
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	4,392,546	-	138,321	55,271	4,586,138
At 31 August 2022	4,474,866	-	147,665	50,448	4,672,979

Freehold property includes land at cost of £87,152 (2022: £87,152) which is not depreciated.

Freehold property additions include assets under construction of £Nil (2022: £16,479) which are not depreciated.

The bank loan disclosed in notes 9 and 10 is secured by way of a fixed charge over the freehold property.

8 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	591,563	2,820
Prepayments and accrued income	52,794	45,689
Other debtors	5,779	8,784
	650,136	57,293

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loan	17,732	17,172
Trade creditors	24,008	40,678
Tax and social security	29,428	31,524
Parent deposits	7,000	9,500
Accruals and deferred income	786,500	292,582
Other creditors	12,959	16,859
	<u>877,627</u>	<u>408,315</u>

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	224,545	593,072
Released to income	(224,545)	(593,072)
Received in the year and deferred	<u>751,965</u>	<u>224,545</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>751,965</u>	<u>224,545</u>

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loan	457,006	475,866
Parent deposits	<u>73,364</u>	<u>74,014</u>
	<u>530,370</u>	<u>549,880</u>

The bank loan is repayable over 20 years. The interest rate on the loan is fixed initially at 3.89%. The loan is secured by a first legal charge over the school property. Of the above bank loan balance £377,941 (2022: £397,027) is due in greater than five years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the charity was committed to future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due within one year	366	4,392
Due in two to five years	-	366
	<u>366</u>	<u>4,758</u>

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team.

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

During the year, the daughter of the Bursar of the school was paid £1,007 (2022: £Nil) in relation to her role as an early years practitioner.

During the year, John Buckles a trustee of the charity was paid £13,025 (2022: £Nil) in relation to bursar support.

The school offers discounted student fees for pupils of parents employed as teachers at The Tonbridge School. One trustee benefitted from this discount, which amounted to £3,607 (2022: One trustee - £3,450).

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £302,895 (2022: £302,117).

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Trustees	Mr D. R. Walker, Chairman Mr D. Eaton, Vice Chairman Mrs L. Alexander Mr J. Buckles Mr W. Faure-Walker Mrs G. Harrison Mrs V. C. Larmour, Mr M. Phelps (appointed 17 March 2022) Mrs E. C. Pocock Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Independent auditors	Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 130 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1DE
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headmistress	Mrs K. Joiner NNEB BEd (Hons) QTS MEd

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims

- to prepare children for secondary education (in both state and independent schools) by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values - based Education
- to create a friendly family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing good manners and respect for others
- to treat every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential, gaining confidence and maturity as they progress
- to employ outstanding teachers who can inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards
- to involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school
- to provide a benefit to the public in accordance with our charitable status.

Our Objectives

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the school.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2021-22 were:

- To see the development program through to a successful conclusion, on time and to budget
- To monitor the national economic position and manage costs to ensure our continued financial security
- To support the SLT in preparing for a successful compliance inspection
- To support the SLT in driving up pupil numbers and make additional resources available if needed
- To support the SLT in reviewing our Early Years provision
- To appoint one or more new trustees

Our Achievements and Performance

The development project was completed on time and on budget without losing a single day's learning. The building program has given us state of the art classroom facilities for every year group; a new and improved hall space; a soundproofed music teaching room for class teaching; an updated, enlarged and improved kitchen; a medical room; additional toilets; a staff common room; meeting rooms; and spaces for 1:1 and small group teaching. We also recommissioned the library and other spaces to improve the learning environment. As part of the programme some other minor upgrades were undertaken which could most efficiently be done with the contractors on site. This included the kitchen refurbishment.

The School took possession of the new facilities at Easter 2022 which were officially opened by the Mayor of Tonbridge at a Platinum Jubilee Party in June

The School instigated a new marketing program during the year, with an increased emphasis on social media and digital activity. As a result, the number of pupils in the school increased from 113 at the end of the 2021-22 academic year to 121 at the beginning of the 2022-23 year.

Our Year 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary schools, which included Beechwood, Bethany, Hillview, The Judd School, Kent College, Merchiston (Scotland), Rochester Independent, Sevenoaks School, The Skinners School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar, Walthamstow Hall and Weald of Kent. Five pupils were awarded scholarships.

The Early Years team implemented a newly revised curriculum which focused on Practitioners spending more quality time with the children, enhancing their learning through a holistic approach. The transition class was rebranded as Pre-School, focusing on embedding the core knowledge and skills needed for Reception class

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the school has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the school. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the school and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022 report a net deficit of £92,709 (2021: net surplus of £46,962). The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the school. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £3,998,474 (2021: £4,091,183) including freehold property carried at a value of £4,474,866 (2021: £2,936,382)

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to a deficit position of £674,505 (2021: surplus of £923,358). This decline is largely due to reserves being spent on the development program. In July 2020, the Trust took out a 20 year loan of £500,000 with NatWest to help with cash flow over the development period. The Trust will maintain a prudent level of cash reserves in the short term and intends to build the reserves in the longer term towards a target of 13 weeks or a full term's expenditure.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the school is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to boys and girls who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.' A report is made annually to the full Trust detailing the activities undertaken throughout the year. The School takes special note of the guidance from the Charity Commission, which emphasises the benefit in 'sharing facilities, expertise and perspectives with colleagues from local (state) schools'.

The School continues to develop its links with Leigh Primary School where our headmistress is on the governing body. We continue to explore opportunities for further cooperation between our two schools. This work advances our broader educational aims and we believe that the exchange of ideas is mutually beneficial.

Other activities undertaken by the school to complement the financial support it provides to selected pupils included sponsoring training for Early Years practitioners, attendance at Remembrance Day services, carol singing and visits to local retirement homes.

Financial bursaries and scholarships

During the year, the Trust supported 12 pupils (2021: 15) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy. In addition, the School awards sports and music scholarships based on individual merit and potential.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £91,121 (2021: £97,492). This represents 5% (2021: 5%) of the school's income.

Our Plans for the Future

Our current five-year strategic plan (2018-2023) will guide the further development of the school and will evolve in the light of current circumstances.

Following the completion of the development program, emphasis will be given to integrating the new facilities into the day-to-day operation of the school.

The school will review and upgrade its data handling and administration procedures and establish a fully integrated digital solution for recording, monitoring and analysing pastoral and safeguarding information.

The curriculum will continue to evolve to ensure that it is broad, balanced and inspiring and gives children the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This will include further strengthening the pupils' ability to understand, direct and enhance their own learning power.

To enhance our public benefit, we will continue to work with our associated local state school, Leigh Primary, to develop the programme of mutual support activities for pupils and staff in both schools.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

We will also maintain bursary funding to ensure that we continue to provide a Hilden Oaks education to as many children as possible.

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees determine general policy and provide overall management and control of the Trust.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the headmistress, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headmistress undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headmistress and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk Management and Policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the school's income and pupil numbers in the light of the current economic situation.

Risk management and sector financial pressures

The school budget is developed to ensure that we can continue to attract high quality teaching staff, who represent two-thirds of our expenditure. Fees are then set to cover remaining costs, taking into account likely pupil numbers, capital expenditure requirements and inflation, together with a suitable level of surplus. The Bursar maintains close control of costs and has made provision for the expected exceptional increases in utility and catering costs this year. The trustees are aware of other potential cost increases in the future, especially the removal of charity business rate relief and the possible imposition of VAT on school fees by a future Labour Government. The primary risk mitigation has been to optimise our marketing to attract new pupils, many of whom join the school from our Nursery which enjoys a pre-eminent local reputation and demand for places exceeds availability. The main school continues to operate at high capacity levels and offers good value for money in the local catchment area.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr D. R. Walker
Chairman

.....
Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2022 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 2022 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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 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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applying to the charitable company, and the procedures that management adopt to ensure compliance, and have considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements, and in particular we identified: the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP (FRS102).

We have also identified other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the amounts or disclosures within the financial statements, but for which compliance is fundamental to the company's operations and to avoid material penalties, including GDPR and data protection regulations, health and safety regulations concerning education establishments, food hygiene standards, safeguarding regulations concerning children in educational environments and compliance with the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Having reviewed the laws and regulations applicable to the company, we designed and performed audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Specifically, we:

- Made enquiries of management, and reviewed any reported incidents during the year;

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

- Reviewed the register held by the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure that the company was appropriately registered and no regulatory breaches were found;
- Confirmed that a sample of employees had appropriate DBS certificates to work with children and young people;
- Reviewed the most recent report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate to ensure compliance;
- Obtained and reviewed internal policies and procedures and external guidance; and
- Reviewed the completeness and accuracy of associated disclosures made in the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud, and in doing so:

- We considered how fraud might occur and evaluated management's assessment of the risk of fraud and whether they are aware of any actual or suspected incidences of fraud;
- We considered whether management have incentives and opportunities to manipulate financial results (including overriding controls) and determined that the key risks related to completeness of income and costs in relation to the extension work;
- We obtained the Board of Trustees' assessment of fraud risk and enquired as to any known or suspected instances of fraud in the year; and
- We designed and performed audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, including review of relevant correspondence and minutes, discussions with management and corroboration of their statements, a review of systems and controls, a review of accounting estimates and journal entries and performing substantive testing in respect of completeness of income, and allocations of costs to fixed assets.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL
TRUST LIMITED

.....
Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Statutory Auditors, Chartered Accountants
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: 16/12/2022

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income from:			
Grants and donations		-	30,131
Charitable activities	3	1,940,538	1,907,507
Bank interest		224	222
Total		<u>1,940,762</u>	<u>1,937,860</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	<u>2,033,471</u>	<u>1,890,898</u>
Total		<u>2,033,471</u>	<u>1,890,898</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>(92,709)</u>	<u>46,962</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		<u>4,091,183</u>	<u>4,044,221</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>3,998,474</u></u>	<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>

There were no restricted funds in the current nor preceding period.

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		4,672,979		3,167,825
Current assets					
Stocks		1,391		2,932	
Debtors	8	57,293		391,180	
Cash at bank and in hand		225,006		1,489,646	
		<u>283,690</u>		<u>1,883,758</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(408,315)</u>		<u>(888,250)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>(124,625)</u>		<u>995,508</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,548,354</u>		<u>4,163,333</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(549,880)</u>		<u>(72,150)</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>3,998,474</u></u>		<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>3,998,474</u>		<u>4,091,183</u>
			<u><u>3,998,474</u></u>		<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 November 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr D. R. Walker
Chair

.....
Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	A	(148,941)	291,748
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		224	222
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,608,961)	(610,945)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,608,737)	(610,723)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of bank borrowings		(6,962)	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing		500,000	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		493,038	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,264,640)	(318,975)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,489,646	1,808,621
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		225,006	1,489,646
A. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds for the year		(92,709)	46,962
Depreciation charges		103,807	94,255
Bank interest		(224)	(222)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		1,541	(558)
Decrease in debtors		333,887	26,924
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(495,243)	124,387
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		(148,941)	291,748
B. Analysis of changes in net debt			
		Cash £	Bank loans £
At start of year		1,489,646	-
Cash flows		(1,264,640)	(493,038)
Net debt at the end of the year		225,006	(493,038)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees receivable are shown net of bursaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis

New freehold building additions have been analysed based on their comprising components as follows:

Main fabric (including roof)	50 years on the straight line basis
Windows & external doors	25 years on the straight line basis
Mechanical and electrical	20 years on the straight line basis
Bathroom fittings	10 years on the straight line basis
Kitchen fittings	10 years on the straight line basis

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments, including bank loans, are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teachers and other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

Leasing

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
School fees receivable	2,025,117	2,031,362
Other school income	14,593	5,612
Bursaries, scholarships and Covid-19 fee reductions	(99,172)	(129,467)
	<u>1,940,538</u>	<u>1,907,507</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Staff costs	1,217,266	1,195,729
Food and housekeeping	183,255	138,653
IT expenses	49,260	42,743
Repairs and maintenance	38,045	25,591
Stationery, books and materials	46,059	45,734
Utilities	26,643	25,814
Other direct costs	24,501	8,763
Facilities hire	17,852	8,509
Minibus expenses	8,861	9,417
Teacher training	9,079	10,197
Bad and doubtful debts	(9,840)	5,403
Support costs allocated	422,490	374,345
	<u>2,033,471</u>	<u>1,890,898</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Support costs comprise:		
Staff costs	194,142	185,131
Recruitment	4,574	-
Insurance	31,424	23,186
Health and safety	11,520	10,860
Printing, post and stationery	8,395	9,263
Other staff costs	10,590	13,046
Marketing	14,680	10,004
Rates	7,243	6,477
Subscriptions and membership fees	6,314	5,483
Telephone and communication	1,370	2,305
Other costs	941	845
Depreciation	103,806	94,254
Bank charges	1,487	1,405
Loan interest	8,016	-
Governance costs:		
Auditors' remuneration	6,900	6,700
Auditors' non-audit fees	2,113	2,000
Legal and professional fees	8,975	3,386
	<u>422,490</u>	<u>374,345</u>

5 NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2022 £	2021 £
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	103,806	94,254
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	6,900	6,700
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	2,113	2,000
Operating lease rentals	<u>4,392</u>	<u>4,392</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

6 STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Gross salaries	1,189,179	1,149,897
Employer's pension contributions	97,898	103,619
Employer's National Insurance contributions	107,855	102,033
Group life and protection insurance	12,370	12,486
Supply and freelance	4,106	12,825
	<u>1,411,408</u>	<u>1,380,860</u>

There were 2 (2021: 2) employees with employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of between £70,001 and £80,000 in the period.

At the balance sheet date pension contributions unpaid amounted to £12,163 (2021: £12,119).

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2022	2021
Teaching staff	42	41
Domestic staff	2	2
Administrative staff	6	6
	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property</i>	<i>Motor vehicles</i>	<i>Fixtures and fittings</i>	<i>Computer equipment</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2021	3,126,920	17,919	277,122	190,046	3,612,007
Additions	1,568,006	-	5,556	18,920	1,592,482
Additions - assets under construction	16,479	-	-	-	16,479
At 31 August 2022	4,711,405	17,919	282,678	208,966	5,220,968
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	190,538	17,919	110,148	125,577	444,182
Charged for the year	46,001	-	24,865	32,941	103,807
At 31 August 2022	236,539	17,919	135,013	158,518	547,989
Net book value					
At 31 August 2022	4,474,866	-	147,665	50,448	4,672,979
At 31 August 2021	2,936,382	-	166,974	64,469	3,167,825

Freehold property includes land at cost of £87,152 (2021: £87,152) which is not depreciated.

Freehold property additions include assets under construction of £16,479 (2021: £553,566) which are not depreciated.

The bank loan disclosed in notes 9 and 10 is secured against the freehold property.

8 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	2,820	347,705
Prepayments and accrued income	45,689	42,392
Other debtors	8,784	1,083
	57,293	391,180

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loan	17,172	-
Trade creditors	40,678	26,910
Tax and social security	31,524	27,186
Parent deposits	9,500	9,000
Accruals and deferred income	292,582	808,632
Other creditors	16,859	16,522
	<u>408,315</u>	<u>888,250</u>

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September 2021	593,072	555,412
Released to income	(593,072)	(555,412)
Received in the year and deferred	<u>224,545</u>	<u>593,072</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>224,545</u>	<u>593,072</u>

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loan	475,866	-
Parent deposits	<u>74,014</u>	<u>72,150</u>
	<u>549,880</u>	<u>72,150</u>

The bank loan is repayable over 20 years. The interest rate on the loan is fixed at 3.89%. The loan is secured by a first legal charge over the school property. Of the above bank loan balance, £397,027 is due in greater than five years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

11 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2022 the charity was committed to future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Due within one year	4,392	4,392
Due in two to five years	366	4,758
	<u>4,758</u>	<u>9,150</u>

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team.

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

The school offers discounted student fees for pupils of parents employed as teachers at The Tonbridge School. One trustee benefitted from this discount, which amounted to £3,450 (2021: One trustee - £3,233).

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £302,117 (2021: £305,360).

13 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

As at the Balance Sheet date, the charity is committed to no further development work at the School (2021: £1,373,575).

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Trustees	Mr D. R. Walker, Chairman Mr J. Buckles (appointed 1 July 2021) Mrs L. Alexander Mr D. Eaton Mr W. Faure-Walker Ms M. Gammon (resigned 1 July 2021) Mrs G. Harrison Mrs V. C. Larmour Mrs E. C. Pocock Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Independent auditors	Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 130 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1DE
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headmistress	Mrs K. Joiner NNEB B.Ed (Hons) QTS M.Ed

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

The reference and administrative details on page 1 form part of this report.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims

- to prepare children for secondary education (in both state and independent schools) by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values - based Education
- to create a friendly family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing good manners and respect for others
- to treat every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential, gaining confidence and maturity as they progress
- to employ outstanding teachers who can inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards
- to involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school
- to provide a benefit to the public in accordance with our charitable status.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Our Objectives

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the school.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2020-21 were:

- To advance the development program through detailed planning and contract stages and onward towards initial construction
- To ensure that the school remains at readiness for partial or full closure due to the pandemic
- To monitor the national economic position and, in the event of the predicted downturn, protect the school roll and manage costs to ensure our continued financial security
- To support the use of Microsoft Teams and other IT as part of everyday school operations
- To appoint one or more new trustees

Our Achievements and Performance

The final project scope, financing and operational details for the development programme were agreed, and the final contract was signed prior to construction which started on 12 July 2021. Good progress has been made since then and the project is on target for completion by Easter 2022.

The school continued to provide a full curriculum under the government Covid guidelines during the year and further incorporated IT as part of everyday school operations. This facility can now be used to provide remote education to any future classes or individuals isolating at home. One of the highlights of the year was Forms 5 & 6 musical performance of 'The Jungle Book.' which was staged in the open air and recorded for parents.

Our Year 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary schools, which included Benenden, Bethany, Hillview, The Judd School, Kent College, Sevenoaks School, Skinners Academy, Tonbridge Grammar, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar, Walthamstow Hall and Weald of Kent Grammar. Two pupils were awarded academic scholarships.

External sporting fixtures and events were limited due to the pandemic restrictions, but this gave us new opportunities to vary the curriculum: boys and girls were given the option to choose which sport they would like to follow for a six-week block. Four pupils were also selected as part of the Kent Weald Squad to enter the National Arena Junior League, involving 150 swimming clubs and others excelled in their chosen sports at local regional and national level.

In January, the Transition team designed an outside classroom in the area previously used as a tricycle park which was transformed into a year-round learning resource. This included specially designed investigation stations, story, gardening and water-play areas which enabled the children to develop their skills in all areas of the Early Years' curriculum, including maths and literacy, as well as to encourage personal, social and emotional development.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the school has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the school. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the school and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2021 report a net surplus of £46,962 (2020: net loss of £144,404). The impact on COVID 19 was significantly less this year. Last year we provided a significant fee rebate for the Summer Term as we moved to provide learning at home supported by teaching staff through TEAMS and related resources. This year we offered a nominal reduction to reflect only where specific activities could not be provided such as PE and also lunches. Benefitting from our investment over the years in IT we continued to successfully provide an excellent home schooling offering.

The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the school. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £4,091,183 (2020: £4,044,221) including freehold property carried at a value of £2,936,382 (2020: £2,405,035).

In last year's report we explained that the School had agreed with relevant staff that it would leave the Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) on 31st August 2020. All teaching staff were consequently transferred to the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS) from 1st September 2020.

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to £923,358 (2020: £1,393,086). This level of reserves is within the range considered prudent by the Trust. Reserves are held in readily accessible deposits with recognised institutions. The Trust has entered into a loan agreement within the year, which will be drawn down in the next financial year, to help fund the development programme as set out in Note 14 of the accounts.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the school is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to boys and girls who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.' A report is made annually to the full Trust detailing the activities undertaken throughout the year. The school takes special note of the guidance from the Charity Commission, which emphasises the benefit in 'sharing facilities, expertise and perspectives with colleagues from local (state) schools'.

Despite restrictions on external events during the year, the School continued to develop its links with Leigh Primary School where our headmistress is on the governing body. We continue to explore opportunities for further cooperation between our two schools. This work advances our broader educational aims and we believe that the exchange of ideas is mutually beneficial.

The School prides itself on interacting with, and bringing benefit to the local community. Sadly the restrictions placed on it by the Covid Pandemic have severely restricted the opportunities to do so over the last year. Once it is safe to do so the School will recommence its work with Leigh School and the other community activities, which will include attendance at Remembrance Day services, Carol singing and visits to local retirement homes.

Financial bursaries and scholarships

During the year, the Trust supported 15 pupils (last year: 11) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy. In addition, the School awards sports and music scholarships based on individual merit and potential.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £97,492 (2020: £91,906). This represents 5% (2020: 4.5%) of the school's income.

Our Plans for the Future

Our current five-year strategic plan (2018-2023) will guide the further development of the school.

The new building program will give us state of the art classroom facilities for every year group; a new and improved hall space; a soundproofed music teaching room for class teaching; an updated, enlarged and improved kitchen; a medical room; additional toilets; meeting rooms, and spaces for 1:1

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

and small group teaching. This development is designed to enhance still further the educational experience we can offer and ensure that we continue to develop and enrich our curriculum.

The plan also focuses on continuous improvement of teaching and learning for the benefit of all pupils. The curriculum will continue to evolve to ensure that it is broad, balanced and inspiring and gives children the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This will include further strengthening the pupils' ability to understand, direct and enhance their own learning power. IT resources will be upgraded to ensure that high quality education can be maintained in the event of further lockdowns. To enhance our public benefit, we will continue to work with our associated local state school, Leigh Primary, to develop the programme of mutual support activities for pupils and staff in both schools. We will also maintain bursary funding to ensure that we continue to provide a Hilden Oaks education to as many children as possible.

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable, but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the headmistress, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headmistress undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headmistress and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk Management and Policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils, and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

Risk management in the pandemic

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the school's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the development program. The risks posed by the pandemic are recognised by the trust as potentially affecting all areas of the school's operation, including teaching and learning, health and safety, staffing levels, school finance, capability of IT resources, parental communication and morale, and school marketing and promotion (and therefore pupil recruitment). It is expected that these risks can be reduced next year in the light of the national vaccination program.

Risk management of our development project

The other significant risk is potential disruption to the normal running of the school day while the building work is underway. Our contractor, Baxall, is very experienced in running projects on school sites and has implemented full safeguarding procedures as well as minimising any inconvenience to the school operations. Alternative catering arrangements have been made, a replacement space for dining and larger group activities has been provided by St Saviour's Church and recreational space provided at Hillview House, adjacent to the school. The financial risk has been mitigated through agreeing a fixed price contract. It is expected that these development risks will cease next year once the program is completed.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

- 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 25 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chairman

Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2021 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes. 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 2021 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Report for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applying to the charitable company, in particular the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP FRS 102, Employment law, GDPR, and regulations in relation to safeguarding children;
- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud, including consideration of how fraud might occur and evaluating management's assessment of the risk of fraud and whether they are aware of any actual or suspected incidences of fraud;
- We considered whether management have incentives and opportunities to manipulate financial results (including overriding controls) and determined that the key risks related to completeness of income and costs in relation to the extension work;
- We obtained the Board of trustees' assessment of fraud risk and enquired as to any known or suspected instances of fraud in the year; and
- We designed and performed audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, including review of relevant correspondence and minutes, discussions with management and corroboration of their statements, a review of systems and controls, a review of accounting estimates and journal entries and performing substantive testing in respect of completeness of income, and allocations of costs to fixed assets.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: 9 December 2021

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income from:			
Grants and donations		30,131	33,302
Charitable activities	3	1,907,507	1,786,353
Bank interest		222	6,392
Total		<u>1,937,860</u>	<u>1,826,047</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	<u>1,890,898</u>	<u>1,970,451</u>
Total		<u>1,890,898</u>	<u>1,970,451</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>46,962</u>	<u>(144,404)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		<u>4,044,221</u>	<u>4,188,625</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>	<u><u>4,044,221</u></u>

There were no restricted funds in the current nor preceding period.

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		3,167,825		2,651,135
Current assets					
Stocks		2,932		2,374	
Debtors	8	391,180		418,104	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,489,646		1,808,621	
		<u>1,883,758</u>		<u>2,229,099</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(888,250)</u>		<u>(759,363)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>995,508</u>		<u>1,469,736</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,163,333</u>		<u>4,120,871</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(72,150)</u>		<u>(76,650)</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>		<u><u>4,044,221</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>4,091,183</u>		<u>4,044,221</u>
			<u><u>4,091,183</u></u>		<u><u>4,044,221</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 November 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mr D. R. Walker
Chair

Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	A	291,748	(7,854)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		222	6,392
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(553,566)	(122,460)
Net cash used in investing activities		(553,344)	(116,068)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(261,596)	(123,922)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,808,621	1,932,543
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,547,025	1,808,621
A. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		46,962	(144,404)
Depreciation charges		94,255	76,191
Bank interest		(222)	(6,392)
Increase in stocks		(558)	(2,168)
Decrease in debtors		26,924	57,673
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		124,387	11,246
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		291,748	(7,854)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees receivable are shown net of bursaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis
Assets under construction	Not depreciated until completed

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teachers and other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

Leasing

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
School fees receivable	2,031,362	1,989,461
Other school income	5,612	12,667
Bursaries, scholarships and Covid-19 fee reductions	(129,467)	(215,775)
	<u>1,907,507</u>	<u>1,786,353</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Staff costs	1,195,729	1,284,600
Food and housekeeping	138,653	117,987
IT expenses	42,743	44,158
Repairs and maintenance	25,591	40,500
Stationery, books and materials	45,734	30,426
Utilities	25,814	22,654
Other direct costs	8,763	14,173
Facilities hire	8,509	8,623
Minibus expenses	9,417	8,216
Teacher training	10,197	6,362
Bad and doubtful debts	5,403	1,724
Support costs allocated	374,345	391,028
	<u>1,890,898</u>	<u>1,970,451</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Support costs comprise:		
Staff costs	185,131	182,027
Insurance	23,186	20,602
Health and safety	10,860	11,820
Printing, post and stationery	9,263	9,052
Other staff costs	13,046	8,751
Marketing	10,004	7,106
Rates	6,477	6,561
Subscriptions and membership fees	5,483	5,792
Telephone and communication	2,305	3,121
Bank charges	1,405	1,326
Other costs	845	705
Depreciation	94,254	76,191
Governance costs:		
Auditors' remuneration	8,700	9,180
Auditors' non-audit fees	-	780
Legal and professional fees	3,386	48,014
	<u>374,345</u>	<u>391,028</u>

5 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	94,254	76,191
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	8,700	9,180
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	-	780
Operating lease rentals	<u>4,392</u>	<u>4,392</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6 STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Gross salaries	1,149,897	1,183,884
Employer's pension contributions	103,619	167,365
Employer's National Insurance contributions	102,033	105,039
Group life and protection insurance	12,486	-
Supply and freelance	12,825	10,339
	<u>1,380,860</u>	<u>1,466,627</u>

There were 2 (2020: 2) employees with employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of between £70,001 and £80,000 in the period.

At the balance sheet date pension contributions unpaid amounted to £12,119 (2020: £2,834).

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2021	2020
Teaching staff	41	44
Domestic staff	2	3
Administrative staff	6	6
	<u>49</u>	<u>53</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property £</i>	<i>Motor vehicles £</i>	<i>Fixtures and fittings £</i>	<i>Computer equipment £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Cost					
At 1 September 2020	2,568,354	17,919	246,200	168,589	3,001,062
Additions	5,000	-	30,922	21,457	57,379
Additions- assets under construction	553,566	-	-	-	553,566
At 31 August 2021	<u>3,126,920</u>	<u>17,919</u>	<u>277,122</u>	<u>190,046</u>	<u>3,612,007</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	163,319	17,919	85,953	82,736	349,927
Charged for the year	27,219	-	24,195	42,841	94,255
At 31 August 2021	<u>190,538</u>	<u>17,919</u>	<u>110,148</u>	<u>125,577</u>	<u>444,182</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2021	<u>2,936,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,974</u>	<u>64,469</u>	<u>3,167,825</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>2,405,035</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,247</u>	<u>85,853</u>	<u>2,651,135</u>

Freehold property includes land valued at £87,152 (2020: £82,152) which is not depreciated.

Freehold property additions include assets under construction of £553,566 (2020: £nil) which are not depreciated.

8 DEBTORS

	<i>2021 £</i>	<i>2020 £</i>
Trade debtors	347,705	396,544
Prepayments and accrued income	42,392	21,002
Other debtors	1,083	558
	<u>391,180</u>	<u>418,104</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	26,910	82,404
Tax and social security	27,186	23,236
Parent deposits	9,000	9,500
Accruals and deferred income	808,632	633,938
Other creditors	16,522	10,285
	<u>888,250</u>	<u>759,363</u>

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September 2020	555,412	555,808
Released to income	(555,412)	(555,808)
Received in the year and deferred	593,072	555,412
At 31 August 2021	<u>593,072</u>	<u>555,412</u>

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Parent deposits	72,150	76,650
	<u>72,150</u>	<u>76,650</u>

11 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2021 the charity was committed to future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year	4,392	4,392
Due in two to five years	4,758	9,150
	<u>4,392</u>	<u>9,150</u>

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team.

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £305,360 (2020: £299,136).

13 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

As at the Balance Sheet date, the charity is committed to development work at the School totalling £1,373,575 (2020: no commitments).

14 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

During the year the charity took out a fixed rate loan for £500,000 which will be drawn down during the next financial year. The loan is repayable over 20 years, with the first 15 years at a fixed interest rate of 3.55% per annum, and thereafter 2.25% over base rate per annum. The loan is secured on the freehold property.

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 307935

Accounts

Charity number: 307935
Company registered number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Trustees	Mr D. R. Walker, Chairman Mrs W. M. Carey (resigned 25 June 2020) Mrs L. Alexander Mr D. Eaton Mr W. Faure-Walker Ms M. Gammon (appointed 25 June 2020) Mrs G. Harrison Mrs V. C. Larmour Mr F. McHattie (resigned 25 June 2020) Mrs E. C. Pocock Mrs S. Robertson Mr C. J. C. Swainson Dr B. M. Waugh (resigned 28 November 2019)
Company registered number	00852510
Charity registered number	307935
Registered office	38 Dry Hill Park Road Tonbridge Kent TN10 3BU
Independent auditors	Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors North House, 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 130 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1DE
Solicitors	Warners Solicitors Bank House Bank Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BL
Headmistress	Mrs K. Joiner NNEB B.Ed (Hons) QTS M.Ed

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of the School for the year from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The Trustees confirm that the Trustees' Report and financial statements of the School comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the School's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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).

Since the School qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

The reference and administrative details on page 1 form part of this report.

Constitution

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 10 June 1965 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 29 July 1965, 3 June 2015 and 25 June 2020.

The primary object of the Trust, as stated in its Articles of Association, is 'To advance education through the management and operation of Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery in Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge'.

Our Aims

- to prepare children for secondary education (in both state and independent schools) by providing a stimulating and caring learning environment built on a firm foundation of Values - based Education
- to create a friendly family atmosphere where every child can be safe and happy, developing good manners and respect for others
- to treat every child as an individual and motivate them to reach their full potential, gaining confidence and maturity as they progress
- to employ outstanding teachers who can inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest academic standards
- to involve parents closely in the education of their children and include them in the life of the school
- to provide a benefit to the public in accordance with our charitable status.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Our Objectives

Our objectives are set annually to reflect the educational aims and ethos of the school.

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

Our key objectives for the year 2019-20 were:

- To continue to support and resource the development program towards a successful conclusion
- To continue to support and implement the public benefit strategy
- To consult with staff and resolve the issue of TPS unaffordability
- To support the SLT in introducing BLP (Building Learning Power) throughout the curriculum

Our Achievements and Performance

This most notable achievement during this year was the successful transition to remote learning during the Covid pandemic and the subsequent partial, then full reopening of the school and nursery in September. The lockdown started in the final week of the Easter term and the staff rapidly revised their learning resources to enable pupils to continue their education at home. The quality of teaching and learning remained high through the summer term and both parents and pupils were supported in learning from home. We received significant praise from the parental community about this support and in our on-going delivery of the curriculum more generally. Additional IT resources were deployed, and Microsoft Teams is now being integrated into the daily running of the school.

During the year, the School adopted the Building Learning Power (BLP) framework of learning capacities, which promotes resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity and reflection. Teachers and support staff have received relevant training, BLP activities are planned within the curriculum and BLP language and behaviours promoted and rewarded. Early evidence of its success was demonstrated by pupil resilience, independence and study skills during the lockdown.

Our Form 6 pupils moved on to a wide range of secondary schools, which included Beechwood Sacred Heart, Bennett Memorial, Hillview, Kent College, Maidstone Grammar, Radnor House, Sackville, Sevenoaks School, St Gregory's, The Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar, Tonbridge School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar, Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar and Weald of Kent Grammar. Two pupils were awarded academic scholarships.

External sporting fixtures and events were limited due to the pandemic restrictions. However, virtual challenges against schools within our 'District' and our Virtual Sports Day provided great entertainment. The sailing team began training with Sevenoaks School at Bough Beech and badminton, dance and fencing clubs were introduced to the curriculum. Two pupils were awarded Sports Scholarships to their respective Senior Schools.

Every class, from Reception to Form 6, gave music concerts to parents and informal pupil performances took place in Assemblies which were held virtually during lockdown. The Form 5&6 play, "Treachery at Traitors' Quay", with its topically relevant message of 'Keep Calm and Carry On' was recorded and released to parents and families.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Part of the school garden was converted into a forest school and outdoor learning space, refurbished largely by volunteer parents and staff, funded and co-ordinated by FOHOS. The school was awarded a Green Tree School Gold Award by the Woodland Trust. We succeeded in gaining planning consent for our main development plans which include extensions to the Salmon and Forster buildings and many new resources. Detailed plans are being drawn up and construction should start next year.

Financial Review

The Trustees believe that the school has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The School's principal source of income is fees, which are set at a level to recover operating costs and to provide for investment to support the operations of the school. The Trustees intend to maintain this policy, which ensures the financial viability of the school and is consistent with our aim of providing a first class, well-rounded education.

The financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2020 report a net loss of £144,404 (2019: net surplus of £60,414). This loss included providing parents with a fee discount during the summer term to reflect their loss of amenity due to the lockdown. We expect the school to return to a modest surplus next year.

The Trust does not invest in any assets, or use its incoming resources, for any activities not directly related to or used by the school. The total net assets of the Trust amounted to £4,044,221 (2019: £4,188,625) including freehold property carried at a value of £2,405,035 (2019: £2,432,254).

Following the 43% rise in employers contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, the Trustees recommended that the School should withdraw from the scheme. A comprehensive staff consultation was successfully conducted and the recommendation to leave TPS implemented at the end of the year. All teaching staff will transfer to the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS) from 1st September 2020.

The total free reserves of the Trust, being general funds less the net book value of fixed assets, amount to £1,393,086 (2019: £1,583,759). This level of reserves is within the range considered prudent by the Trust bearing in mind future development plans. Reserves are held in readily accessible deposits with recognised institutions. The Trust continues to have no borrowing requirements.

The Finance Committee monitors the financial position of the Trust and the process of controls operated by the Bursar. The Trustees consider that the financial stability of the school is paramount to achieving its longer-term objectives and the present position continues to fulfil this requirement.

Access, Diversity and Public Benefit

We encourage applications from pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are available to provide financial support to boys and girls who show academic promise but who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Hilden Oaks education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity organisation and Trustees are committed to creating a working environment that is free from discrimination on the grounds of social background, culture, race, gender or physical ability.

The Trust recognises the difficulties faced by pupils with disabilities. We make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are or become disabled. Specialist learning support is available and offers children one-to-one structured help if needed.

The School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School's three-year accessibility plan details our strategy for accessibility for disabled pupils.

Public Benefit

It is a central aim of the School that Hilden Oaks 'provides a benefit to the general public in accordance with our charitable status.' An annual report is made to the full Trust detailing the activities undertaken throughout the year. The School takes special note of the guidance from the Charity Commission, which emphasises the benefit in 'sharing facilities, expertise and perspectives with colleagues from local (state) schools'.

Despite restrictions on external events during the year, the School continued to develop its links with Leigh Primary School where two members of Hilden Oaks staff are on the governing body and we continue to explore opportunities for further co-operation between our two schools. Prior to both schools closing due to Covid-19 colleagues from both schools were collaborating on plans for a joint musical production. This work advances our broader educational aims and we believe that the exchange of ideas is mutually beneficial.

Unfortunately, many of our normal activities and our ability to share our facilities were curtailed during the year by the requirement to close the school in March due to Covid-19. Nevertheless, other activities undertaken by the school to complement the financial support it provides to selected pupils included:

- the Headmistress continues to offer support as an accredited VbE consultant to schools who are considering adopting VbE or seeking to achieve the Quality Mark Award.
- the IT Manager and Bursar visited and shared their expertise with another primary state school in the area (Offham County Primary)
- staff who volunteer in other capacities are released from their duties to fulfil their obligations
- holiday club provision and Saturday Academy for pupils and children in the community (prior to the Covid-19 school closure)
- developing links with a local residential care home to provide cards and letters during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Financial bursaries and scholarships

During the year, the Trust supported 16 pupils (last year: 6) with financial assistance either in the form of means tested bursary awards or financial hardship assistance. Bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of job redundancy. In addition, the School awards sports and music scholarships based on individual merit and potential.

The amount allocated during the year to our bursaries and assistance programme, together with other financial support was £91,906 (2019: £70,019). This represents 4.6% (2019: 3.3%) of the school's income.

Our Plans for the Future

Our current five-year strategic plan (2018-2023) will guide the further development of the school.

This plan includes a significant physical expansion of the estate to reduce the pressure on space. Planning permission has been granted for two extensions to the school buildings which will provide dedicated science and music facilities, a new kitchen and free up other space for one-on-one teaching and lesson preparation.

The plan also focuses on continuous improvement of teaching and learning for the benefit of all pupils. The curriculum will continue to evolve to ensure that it is broad, balanced and inspiring and gives children the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This will include further strengthening the pupils' ability to understand, direct and enhance their own learning power. IT resources will be upgraded to ensure that high quality education can be maintained in the event of further lockdowns.

To enhance our public benefit, we will continue to work with our associated local state school, Leigh Primary, to develop the programme of mutual support activities for pupils and staff in both schools. We will also maintain bursary funding to ensure that we continue to provide a Hilden Oaks education to as many children as possible.

Governance and Management

Trustees are elected at a full Trust meeting and are appointed for an unspecified period. Procedures are in place to identify and recruit suitable individuals to provide strength and balance to the Trust.

The chairman oversees the selection of new Trustees who receive a full induction and are encouraged to attend external training courses and seminars to help them fulfil their role.

Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration is payable but expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Organisation structure and decision making

The Trustees determine general policy and provide overall management and control of the Trust.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees meet at least three times a year with the headmistress, deputy head and bursar attending the meetings. The Trust has three formal committees: Education; Finance and Premises; and Staffing and Remuneration. These committees, each chaired by a Trustee, meet once a term, and report to the full Trust. The Trustees are involved in all aspects of the school's activities, receive presentations from staff and discuss current educational issues.

The Headmistress undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Headmistress and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Risk Management and Policies

The Trustees assess the major risks to which the school is exposed on an annual basis. The risks are identified and assessed, and controls established. The assessment comprises a review of the external operating environment as well as specific areas including governance, management, human resources, health and safety, technology, curriculum, child protection and finance. The reviews enable the Trust to establish systems and procedures to mitigate risks and the Trustees are satisfied that such systems continue to operate satisfactorily.

Designated Trustees are appointed to take the lead in key areas; currently these are Safeguarding & Child Protection; Health & Safety; Special Educational Needs (SEN); Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education (SMSC), Mental Health & Wellbeing; and Early Years.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the school currently (identified by those flagged by the trust as 'red' on its risk register) are those relating to the School's response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The risks posed by the pandemic are recognised by the trust as potentially affecting all areas of the School's operation, including teaching and learning, health and safety, staffing levels, school finance, capability of IT resources, parental communication and morale, and school marketing and promotion (and therefore pupil recruitment).

Monitoring of these risks is undertaken by Trustee oversight through regular sub-committee and Trust meetings and operationally managed by the SLT on a daily basis. The School has undertaken Covid-19-specific risk assessments for health and safety, safeguarding and behaviour management, as required by government guidance. Mitigation has been implemented in response to the risk assessments, including adaptations to curriculum delivery, financial budgeting, IT enhancements, the physical and built environment of the School (and how this is accessed by staff, pupils and visitors), human resource management (including provision to work flexibly and self-isolate) and the introduction of virtual tours for prospective parents. The trustees are confident that the school would be able to continue providing a first-class education in any future period of partial or total lockdown.

The Trust has policies, as required by law and best practice, to ensure good management of the school and to provide guidance for staff, parents, pupils and Trustees. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are compliant with current legislation and fit for purpose. Many of the key policies can be found on the school's website.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

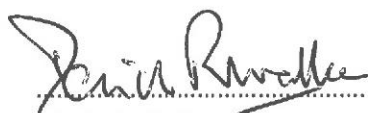
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements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

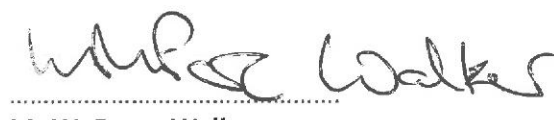
Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' annual report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 26 November 2020 and signed on their behalf by:


Mr D. R. Walker
Chairman


Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited (the 'School') for the year ended 31 August 2020 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes. 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 2020 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Report for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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

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

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HILDEN OAK SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
North House, 198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: 14/12/20

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		2020	2019
		Total	Total
	Note	funds	funds
		£	£
Income from:			
Grants and donations		33,302	50
Charitable activities	3	1,786,353	1,995,213
Bank interest		6,392	8,408
Total		1,826,047	2,003,671
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	1,970,451	1,943,257
Total		1,970,451	1,943,257
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		(144,404)	60,414
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		4,188,625	4,128,211
Total funds carried forward		4,044,221	4,188,625

There were no restricted funds in the current nor preceding period.

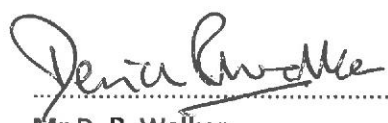
HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

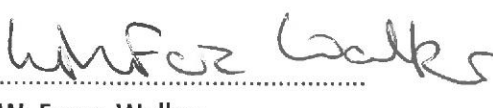
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		2,651,135		2,604,866
Current assets					
Stocks		2,374		206	
Debtors	8	418,104		475,777	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,808,621		1,932,543	
		<u>2,229,099</u>		<u>2,408,526</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(759,363)</u>		<u>(733,517)</u>	
Net current assets			1,469,736		1,675,009
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,120,871</u>		<u>4,279,875</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		<u>(76,650)</u>		<u>(91,250)</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>4,044,221</u></u>		<u><u>4,188,625</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds			<u>4,044,221</u>		<u>4,188,625</u>
			<u><u>4,044,221</u></u>		<u><u>4,188,625</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 November 2020 and are signed on its behalf by:


Mr D. R. Walker
Chair


Mr W. Faure-Walker
Chair of the Finance Committee

Company number: 00852510

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
TRADING AS MAKING MUSIC

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	A	(7,854)	95,128
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		6,392	8,408
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(122,460)	(55,115)
Net cash used in investing activities		(116,068)	(46,707)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(123,922)	48,421
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,932,543	1,884,122
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,808,621	1,932,543
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents:			
Cash at bank		1,808,621	1,933,272
Overdraft facility repayable on demand		-	(729)
		1,808,621	1,932,543
A. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds for the year		(144,404)	60,414
Depreciation charges		76,191	71,478
Loss on disposal		-	22,140
Bank interest		(6,392)	(8,408)
Increase in stocks		(2,168)	(206)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		57,673	(18,255)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		11,246	(32,035)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		(7,854)	95,128

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is recognised once the School has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. School fees are therefore recognised in the term to which they relate. School fees receivable are shown net of bursaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably.

The School has one charitable activity (the provision of educational services) to which direct and support costs are allocated. Staff costs are allocated between direct and support costs on the basis of the staff members' job roles.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to the charitable activities, and include governance costs.

Governance costs include all those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements including the preparation, and external audit, of the statutory accounts, and legal and professional fees.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	50 years on the straight line basis
Motor vehicles	4 years on the straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	Rates up to 10 years on the straight line basis
Computers and website	Between 3 and 5 years on the straight line basis

Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year incurred.

Financial instruments

The School only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Short term basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Other financial instruments are measured initially at the transaction value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The charity has treated non-interest bearing parental deposits as concessionary loans based on the substance of the transactions. The charity has opted to value the deposits at transaction value less repayments made.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period to which the entitlement relates.

Teachers belong to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) which is a defined benefit scheme that is externally funded. Contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

The School operates a defined contribution scheme for other staff and contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they are incurred.

Leasing

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

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2 STATUS

Hilden Oaks School Educational Trust Limited ('the School') is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the School are the Trustees. In the event of the School being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the School.

The address of the School's registered office and its place of business is 38 Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3BU.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	£	£
School fees receivable	1,989,461	2,053,623
Other school income	12,667	11,609
Bursaries, scholarships and Covid-19 fee reductions	(215,775)	(70,019)
	<u>1,786,353</u>	<u>1,995,213</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	£	£
Staff costs	1,284,600	1,177,083
Food and housekeeping	117,987	144,120
IT expenses	44,158	38,207
Repairs and maintenance	40,500	31,019
Stationery, books and materials	30,426	27,409
Utilities	22,654	27,786
Other direct costs	14,173	8,807
Facilities hire	8,623	11,193
Minibus expenses	8,216	9,134
Teacher training	6,362	13,743
Bad and doubtful debts	1,724	(1,647)
Support costs allocated	391,028	456,403
	<u>1,970,451</u>	<u>1,943,257</u>

HILDEN OAKS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	£	£
Support costs comprise:		
Staff costs	182,027	180,781
Insurance	20,602	17,734
Health and safety	11,820	11,205
Printing, post and stationery	9,052	8,054
Other staff costs	8,751	14,002
Marketing	7,106	13,848
Rates	6,561	6,346
Subscriptions and membership fees	5,792	6,507
Telephone and communication	3,121	2,716
Bank charges	1,326	1,490
Other costs	705	733
Depreciation	76,191	71,478
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	22,140
Governance costs:		
Auditors' remuneration	9,180	12,038
Auditors' non-audit fees	780	1,170
Legal and professional fees	48,014	86,161
	<u>391,028</u>	<u>456,403</u>

5 NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	76,191	71,478
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	22,140
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	9,180	12,038
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit services	780	1,170
Operating lease rentals	<u>4,392</u>	<u>7,223</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 STAFF COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gross salaries	1,183,884	1,140,685
Employer's pension contributions	167,365	116,394
Employer's National Insurance contributions	105,039	97,444
Supply and freelance	10,339	3,341
	<u>1,466,627</u>	<u>1,357,864</u>

There were 2 (2019: 2) employees with employment benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of between £70,001 and £80,000 in the period.

The average number of employees on a headcount basis was:

	2020	2019
Teaching staff	44	46
Domestic staff	3	3
Administrative staff	6	7
	<u>53</u>	<u>56</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Freehold property</i> £	<i>Motor vehicles</i> £	<i>Fixtures and fittings</i> £	<i>Computer equipment</i> £	<i>Total</i> £
Cost					
At 1 September 2019	2,568,354	17,919	173,652	118,677	2,878,602
Additions	-	-	72,548	49,912	122,460
At 31 August 2020	2,568,354	17,919	246,200	168,589	3,001,062
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	136,100	17,919	70,305	49,412	273,736
Charged for the year	27,219	-	15,648	33,324	76,191
At 31 August 2020	163,319	17,919	85,953	82,736	349,927
Net book value					
At 31 August 2020	2,405,035	-	160,247	85,853	2,651,135
At 31 August 2019	2,432,254	-	103,347	69,265	2,604,866

Freehold property includes land valued at £82,152 (2019: £82,152) which is not depreciated.

8 DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	396,544	437,682
Prepayments and accrued income	21,002	33,602
Other debtors	558	4,493
	418,104	475,777

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	82,404	21,773
Tax and social security	23,236	23,859
Parent deposits	9,500	9,100
Accruals and deferred income	633,938	674,989
Other creditors	10,285	3,796
	<u>759,363</u>	<u>733,517</u>

The movement on deferred school fees is as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
At 1 September 2019	555,808	567,010
Released to income	(555,808)	(567,010)
Received in the year and deferred	555,412	555,808
	<u>555,412</u>	<u>555,808</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>555,412</u>	<u>555,808</u>

10 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Parent deposits	76,650	91,250
	<u>76,650</u>	<u>91,250</u>

11 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2020 the charity was committed to future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Due within one year	4,392	4,392
Due in two to five years	9,150	13,542
	<u>13,542</u>	<u>17,934</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

12 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel are considered to be the Trustees and the members of the senior leadership team.

The Trustees volunteer in their roles and therefore there was no Trustees' remuneration, other benefits nor reimbursed expenses during the current or prior period.

In the prior period, the son of a Trustee of the School was paid £947 in relation to IT services and garden maintenance. The trustee in question was not in office during the current period.

In the prior period, the daughter of a Trustee of the School was paid £1,542 in relation to Early Years Childcare services provided to the School. The trustee in question was not in office during the current period.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions) received by key management personnel during the year was £299,136 (2019: £288,543).

13 PENSION COMMITMENTS

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

The School participates in the TPS for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £150,372 (2019: £100,904) and at the year end £Nil (2019: £Nil) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

As a result of the changes to the Teachers' Pension following the latest valuation (as set out below) the trustees have agreed, following discussion with staff, to withdraw from the scheme at 31 August 2020. This will mean the School is no longer exposed to any future liabilities arising from this scheme. From 1 September 2020 teaching staff will be enrolled in a defined contribution scheme with Aviva.

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, unfunded, defined benefit occupational scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act (1972) and Public Service Pensions Act (2013) and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – contributions from members, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Acts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

13 PENSION COMMITMENTS continued

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme has now taken place, in line with directions issued by HM Treasury and using membership data as at 31 March 2016. As a result of this valuation TPS employers will pay an increased contribution rate of 23.68% from September 2019 (this includes the administration levy of 0.8%). The timing of the implementation is to align its introduction with employers' budget planning cycles. Until then, employers will pay the current rate of 16.48%.

The arrangements for a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme, in line with the recommendations made by Lord Hutton, in particular the introduction of a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, were implemented from 1 April 2015.

In December 2018, the Court of Appeal held that transitional protection provisions contained in the reformed judicial and firefighter pension schemes, introduced as part of public service pension reforms in 2015, gave rise to direct age discrimination and were therefore unlawful. The Supreme Court, in a decision made in June 2019, have rejected the Government's application for permission to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling. The case will now be referred to an Employment Tribunal for a decision regarding the remedy which will need to be offered to those members of the two schemes who were subject of the age discrimination.

HM Treasury are clear that the ruling has implications for the other public service schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Those implications are currently being considered and any impact on scheme costs is expected to be looked at within the next scheme valuation, which is currently scheduled to be based on April 2020 data and implemented in April 2023.

In view of the above rulings and decisions the assumptions used in the 31 March 2016 Actuarial Valuation may become inappropriate. In this scenario, a valuation prepared in accordance with revised benefits and suitably revised assumptions would yield different results than those contained in the Actuarial Valuation.

Until a remedy to the discrimination conclusion has been determined by the Employment Tribunal it is not possible to conclude on any financial impact or future changes to the contribution rates of the TPS. Accordingly no provision for any additional past benefit pension costs is included in these financial statements.