

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

## Details

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**Other names** NEW BEACON SCHOOL LIMITED, MAHARISHI SCHOOL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [01902341](#)

**Registered** 1986-09-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Maharishi School  
Cobbs Brow Lane  
Lathom  
Ormskirk  
L40 6JJ

**Phone** 01695729912

**Email** [enquiries@maharishischool.com](mailto:enquiries@maharishischool.com)

**Website** [www.maharishischool.com](http://www.maharishischool.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS BY ESTABLISHING MAINTAINING AND CONDUCTING A NON-DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOLS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING TO ALL THE PUPILS CONSCIOUSNESS-BASED EDUCATION AS DEVELOPED AND DEFINED BY HIS HOLINESS MAHARISHI MAHESH YOGI.TO DEVELOP IN THE INDIVIDUAL PUPILS, THROUGH THE MAHARISHI TECHNOLOGY OF THE UNIFIED FIELD AND THE SCIENCE OF CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE AS FOUNDED BY HIS HOLINESS MAHARISHI MAHESH YOGI, THE INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE EXPERIENCE AND APPLICATION OF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF NATURAL LAW AS EXPOUNDED BY BOTH THE OBJECTIVE APPROACH OF MODERN SCIENCE AND THE SUBJECTIVE APPROACH OF MAHARISHI'S VEDIC SCIENCE.FOR THE PURPOSES OF INTERPRETATION THE TERMS CONSCIOUSNESS BASED EDUCATION, MAHARISHI TECHNOLOGY OF THE UNIFIED FIELD, SCIENCE OF CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND MAHARISHI'S VEDIC SCIENCE ARE BRIEFLY DEFINED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE MEMORANDUM

**Activities:** Primary and Secondary Education.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Lancashire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£1,691,249	£1,638,159	£963,190	34
2023-08-31	£1,492,542	£1,538,929	£918,100	34
2022-08-31	£1,387,586	£1,380,059	£964,487	52
2021-08-31	£1,265,000	£1,346,518	£466,960	39
2020-08-31	£1,263,046	£1,276,056	£596,478	47

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>DR IAN BRIAN BIRNBAUM OBE</b>	Chair	2017-12-10
Audrey O'Neill		2020-11-05
Claire Latham		2022-09-01
Claire Winteringham		2020-01-06
Daniel Stephen McArthur-Greenall		2024-12-12
<b>GWYNDAF EVANS</b>		2017-12-10
Julian Lees		2022-09-01
<b>LISA VICKI WALTERS</b>		2017-12-10
Laura Elizabeth Gaskell		2022-01-31
Lisa Edwards		2016-09-01
Louise McCloskey		2024-02-07
<b>MAREANNA INGRAM</b>		2019-05-06
Nathaniel William Toby Mercer		2025-02-14
<b>RICHARD WILLIAM BUSWELL</b>		2021-10-14
Rosemary Marriott		2022-01-31

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

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# Accounts

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Company Registration No. 01902341 (England and Wales)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**GOVERNORS' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Governors' report	3 - 12
Governance statement	13 - 16
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of governors' responsibilities	18
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	19 - 22
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	23 - 24
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	25 - 26
Balance sheet	27
Statement of cash flows	28
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	29 - 46

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# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

G Valente  
G Evans  
I Birnbaum  
J Scott  
P D Mitchell  
R W Buswell  
W G Orr

### Governors

I Birnbaum  
L J Edwards  
A O'Neill  
C L McCloskey (Appointed 7 February 2024)  
C K Latham  
C Winteringham  
G Evans  
J R H Lees  
L Gaskell  
L V Walters  
M Ingram  
R F Hobson (Appointed 7 February 2024)  
R W Buswell  
R Marriott  
L E J Andrews (Resigned 8 November 2024)  
J Duckett (Resigned 9 August 2024)  
J Smalley (Resigned 7 December 2023)

### Senior management team

- Headteacher  
- Deputy Head  
- Deputy Head  
- Consciousness-based Education lead  
- Business Manager

L Edwards  
L Walters  
L Gaskell  
M Ingram  
P Magee

### Company secretary

P Magee

### Company registration number

01902341 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Maharishi School Cobbs Brow Lane  
Lathom  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L40 6JJ

### Independent auditor

Cooper Parry Group Limited  
St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6HT

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### **Bankers**

Lloyds  
PO Box 1000  
Andover  
BX1 1LT

### **Solicitors**

HY Education  
Sandbrook House  
Sandbrook Park  
Rochdale  
OL11 1RY

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The academy trust operates an academy to provide education for pupils of different abilities aged 4 to 16 known as a Consciousness based Education, serving a catchment area in West Lanachsire. It has a pupil capacity of 240 and had a roll of 230 in the school census on October 2024.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. governors' of Maharishi School Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Maharishi School Trust.

The Academy Trust's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the School together with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Education. Members of the Academy Trust comprise of the signatories to the memorandum, up to 3 persons who may be appointed by Maharishi Foundation and 1 person who may be appointed by the Secretary of State, the Chair of Governors and others whom existing members may unanimously appoint. The articles of association require the members of the Academy Trust to appoint at least three governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs and management of the School.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Governors' indemnities

The Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 for governors' liability on any one occurrence.

##### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of governors

The Members may appoint up to 10 Governors. The Members may appoint Staff Governors through such a process as they may determine, provided that the total number of Governors (including the Headteacher) who are employees of the Academy Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Governors. The LA may appoint the LA Governor. The Headteacher shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Governor. The Parent Governors shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected. The Governing Body shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of Parent Governors, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy. Any election of Parent Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.

The governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The governors who were in office at 31 August 2024 and served throughout the year are listed on page 1. During the year under review the governors held 6 meetings.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of governors

Company law requires the governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, the governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide information on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors will be given a tour of the School, including the chance to meet with staff and students.

All governors are provided with access to copies of our policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors. As the number of new governors a year is limited, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

The governors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The governors confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as governors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Academy Trust's auditors are aware of that information. The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Academy Trust's website.

#### Organisational structure

The structure consists of two levels: The Governors and The Senior Managers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The next layer is the Senior Managers, these are the Head teacher, two Deputy Heads and the Director of Finance and Administration. These managers control the School at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Governor.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Risk Management

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, child protection, health and safety, data protection, relationships and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, security of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover through the DfE RPA scheme. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

#### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

When determining the pay range for key management personnel the board will consider all the permanent responsibilities of the role, any challenges specific to the role and other relevant circumstances including recruitment or retention difficulties.

Maharishi School understands that a fair and transparent policy is needed to establish the pay range at the school mindful of the financial constraints that a school such as Maharishi School with small class sizes faces. The School was previously an independent school and therefore there were no key management personnel transferred to the Free School at the point of conversion whose employment was required to continue under the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Although not bound by this requirement, the school is cognisant of and may refer to certain requirements of the STPCD if deemed appropriate.

Maharishi School's pay policy now is to uplift existing teachers', deputies' and the headteacher's salaries annually by the percentage determined nationally by the Government for the new academic year.

#### Statement on the system of internal finance control

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance, that:-

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The governors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed Cooper Parry as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems on a termly basis. The Internal Audit Committee which is a sub-group of the Finance Committee, holds termly meetings to review the Responsible Officer's reports and make recommendations accordingly.

The Responsible Officer is required to report to the Governing Body, via the Internal Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. These arrangements provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Our Vision

Our vision is to prepare every pupil to reach their full potential and attain the knowledge, skills and understanding required for success through our unique system of Consciousness-based Education (CbE). We develop their inner resources through the practice of Word of Wisdom and Transcendental Meditation recognising that knowledge is structured in consciousness.

CbE is unique to Maharishi School. In addition to the traditional educational emphasis on the 'known' (curriculum content) and the 'process of knowing' (teaching and learning), central to our educational philosophy is the 'knower' (the pupil). By focusing on developing the 'knower' through CbE, we tap into our pupils' potential - rather than trying to cram more and more knowledge into the container, we place emphasis on 'expanding the container' to develop creativity and intelligence within each individual.

##### Strategic Aims

We aim to:

- Support our pupils' developing consciousness by pupils and staff practising Transcendental Meditation or Word of Wisdom and by following the approach and principles of Consciousness-based Education.
- Cultivate receptivity in students through the development of effective, supportive, and positive relationships between teacher and student.
- Enliven intelligence and its application by:
  - linking inner values with outer values in the pursuit of knowledge for a purpose
  - developing each student's ability to discern finer and finer parts in the context of bigger and bigger wholes
  - helping pupils to look for and recognise universal patterns
  - adapting teaching to take account of the individual character of each pupil's own intelligence.
- Enliven, structure and organise knowledge by:
  - teaching knowledge in the context of human purpose
  - developing knowledge holistically by connecting everything that is taught to the self of each pupil.
- Enliven, extend and deepen experience by:
  - integrating knowledge with experience in furtherance of the development of deeper and more complete knowledge
  - extending each pupil's own experience in relation to knowledge taught and in conformity with their own nature through appropriate applications and practical work
  - involving all the senses and organs of action in constructing learning experiences – where safe and practical.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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- Enliven and enhance expression through:
  - encouraging pupil expression at the start of each learning cycle to stimulate the desire for growth
  - consolidating learning through the expression of knowledge and skill
  - encouraging the expression of fullness of life, through a wide range of expressive modes.
- Promote a growth mindset approach to learning within a safe environment where mistakes are promoted as learning opportunities and pupils are encouraged to support one another through their learning journey.
- Provide equal opportunities for all pupils.
- Keep all pupils safe from physical and emotional harm.
- Provide a broad, balanced and rich curriculum that prepares pupils for modern life.
- Embrace the community and make parents part of our success.
- Create a friendly, happy atmosphere where good behaviour is the norm, children are happy and fulfilled, and attitudes to learning are positive.
- Achieve the best outcomes for all.

#### Three-year Strategic Objectives

##### **1. Develop and Fully Embed Consciousness-based Life Skills (CbLS) Across All Year Groups KPIs:**

- **Timing of roll-out:** Timetable of roll-out across year groups achieved
- **Feedback:** Student feedback on CbLS is positive
- **Assessment Results:** Student assessments related to life skills are positive
- **Integration:** CbLS themes are integrated within the curriculum

##### **2. Increase the Number of Pupils Regularly Doing WoW or TM Both Within and Outside School KPIs:**

- **In-school participation Rates:** Percentage of students actively participating in WoW or TM regularly in school increases
- **Survey Results:** Student surveys indicating regular practice of WoW or TM out of school increases

##### **3. Increase the Number of Parents Learning and Practising TM KPIs:**

- **Parent Participation Rates:** Number and percentage of parents learning TM increases
- **Survey Results:** Percentage of parents regularly practising TM as reported through surveys increases

##### **4. Ensure the School is Highly Regarded by Ofsted and Other Institutions It Engages With KPIs:**

- **Ofsted Ratings:** Ofsted inspection ratings are at least good
- **Inspection Feedback:** Specific feedback points and commendations from Ofsted and other institutions are positive
- **Stakeholder Surveys:** Positive feedback from surveys conducted with stakeholders (parents, students, staff)

##### **5. Continually Improve the Attendance of Pupils KPIs:**

- **Attendance Rates:** Overall average daily attendance rates improve
- **Persistent Absenteeism:** Percentage of students with persistent absenteeism reduces
- **Punctuality Rates:** Rates of on-time arrivals improve
- **Intervention Effectiveness:** Impact of attendance interventions is positive

##### **6. Maintain Non-Negative Progress Scores (Within Confidence Interval Boundaries) at Both KS2 and KS4 and Improve on Them Year on Year KPIs:**

- **Progress Scores:** Progress scores for KS2 and KS4 are non-negative within CI boundaries and improve
- **Intervention Success:** Effectiveness of academic interventions aimed at improving progress scores

##### **7. Secure Additional Playground Space at the Secondary Site KPIs:**

- **Funding:** Additional playground space funds secured
- **Space Acquisition:** Additional playground space created

##### **8. Secure Funding for Additional Learning and Administrative Space for the Secondary Phase KPIs:**

- **Funding:** Funding for additional building secured
- **Building Acquisition:** Plans for new building fully developed

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 9. Market the School Effectively to Maximise Pupil Roll KPIs:

- **Enrolment Numbers:** Total number of students enrolled increases and is then maintained
- **Application Rates:** Number of applications received per year increases
- **Marketing Campaign Reach:** Engagement metrics for marketing campaigns (e.g., social media interactions, website visits) and open days are good

#### 10. Continue to Secure Financial Sustainability and Value for Money KPIs:

- **Budget Adherence:** Percentage adherence to the planned budget is high
- **Revenue Streams:** Diversity and growth of revenue streams (e.g., grants, donations, fundraising events)
- **Cost Efficiency:** Cost savings achieved through efficient resource management
- **Financial Reserves:** Maintenance or growth of financial reserves
- **Audit Results:** Positive outcomes from financial audits and evaluations

#### Public benefit

One of Maharishi Free School's guiding principles is "The world is my family".

We recognise the unity of every individual with every aspect of the world, not only other people, but the whole environment. A practical expression of this is the fundraising of various types that our pupils undertake for those in need, both at home and around the world.

In the last year the school has raised money for BBC Children in Need, World Mental Health Day (Young Minds), WWF and Comic Relief. In conjunction with the school fundraising committee and the newly formed Parent Teacher Friend Association held successful community events: the Mince Pie Mingle was held at the primary school site and the summer fair at nearby Newburgh Sports Club.

The primary school choir entertained shoppers at the Skelmersdale Concourse Shopping Centre whilst at the high school, the Archbishop of York Young People's Leaders Award programme raised awareness of several charities and organisations: British Heart Foundation; Homelessness; Age UK and Youth Sports Trust. Our Friends of the Earth Club at the primary school carried out a number litter picking initiatives around the local area and Beacon Country Park. The school's Christmas Shoe Box appeal for Act Foundation delivered over 30 shoe boxes to Ukraine.

The school is also licenced to operate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and often has the highest proportion of involved pupils in the region. Sufficient time and resource is allowed for pupils to work towards both Bronze and Silver awards. The Duke of Edinburgh award includes the requirement of participants to undertake a volunteering activity.

High school students had the opportunity to visit Oxford University as part of its outreach work. The annual careers carousel provided students with the opportunity to hear from a wide range of local employers, business leaders and entrepreneurs as part of the school's careers education programme.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit by seeking to promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise. In support of this Maharishi School provides its highly beneficial system of Consciousness-based Education to as many children as possible within the physical constraints of the current buildings. Despite this the school is often unable to satisfy demand for places, both locally and beyond. The school also actively supports parents in learning the practical element of Consciousness-based Education, the Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique by procuring funds for this purpose.

## Strategic report

### Achievements and performance

Below is an analysis of the 2024 results for GCSE and KS2. Whilst we are incredibly proud of our pupils' efforts and their results, here at Maharishi School, success is measured by more than just academic results. We want all of our graduates to leave us with a heightened sense of self-confidence as they enter the world beyond Maharishi School; a level of social conscience that reflects our motto 'The World is my Family'; and, most of all, a sense of inner fulfilment.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### GCSE Results 2024

\*National data for 2024 has not yet been released (due January - February 2025), therefore national comparisons are from 2023.

<b>Attainment 8</b> <i>Attainment 8 shows the average academic performance of a secondary school. It is calculated by adding together pupils' highest scores across eight government approved school subjects.</i>		
School 2024	School 2023	National 2023*
49	47	45

<b>Progress 8</b> <i>Progress results are calculated for a school based on a specific set of pupils. A school may have been equally effective, but have performed differently, with a different set of pupils; and some pupils may achieve similar results independently of which school they attend. To take account of this, a confidence interval is constructed. Where a confidence interval overlaps zero, a school's progress score is not significantly different from the national average. 0.0 = expected progress based on prior attainment.</i>		
School 2024	School 2023	National 2023*
TBC (Dec 2024)	0.22	-0.03

<b>Grade 5+ in English &amp; maths</b>		
School 2024	School 2023	National 2023*
53%	35%	43%

<b>EBacc Entry</b> <i>The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. There are 5 pillars to the EBacc: English, maths, science, geography or history &amp; a language. The higher percentage of entry reflects the very academic curriculum on offer at Maharishi School.</i>		
School 2024	School 2023	National 2023*
87%	94%	36%

<b>EBacc Average Points Score</b> <i>The EBacc average points score calculates a pupil's average point scores across the 5 pillars of the English Baccalaureate. Ebacc outcomes at Maharishi School are higher than the national average, despite wider prior attainment of the groups compared with national figures (see Ebacc Entry above).</i>		
School 2024	School 2023	National 2023*
4.80	4.67	3.88

This past year has seen an estimated 100% (TBC) of our graduates move on to further education. In 2023, 94% of pupils moved onto further education or employment.

We would like to express our continued thanks to staff, parents and governors for their unwavering support in guiding our pupils towards the fulfilment of their ambitions and we wish our Y11 leavers all the very best for the future.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### KS2 Results 2024

Expected standard in	Expected standard 2024	Expected standard 2023	National 2024
Reading	75%	65% (Progress -2.44)	73%
Writing	65%	55% (Progress -3.00)	71%
Maths	70%	55% (Progress -4.24)	73%
RWM combined	60%	40%	60%

Greater depth in	Greater depth 2024	Greater depth 2023	National 2024
Reading	30%	20%	28%
Writing	5%	5%	13%
Maths	20%	5%	24%
RWM combined	0%	0%	8%

Average scaled score in	Average SS 2024	Average SS 2023	National
Reading	105.9	102.3	105.1
Maths	103.6	100	104.2

<u>End of Key Stage 2: Year 6</u>			
Expected Standard	Maharishi School Expected Standard	2024 National	Estimated Progress Score
Reading	83%	74%	1.66
Writing	65%	72%	0.38
Maths	78%	73%	0.33
RWM	60%	61%	

There is no national progress score this year as there were no KS1 tests taken in 2020, due to the pandemic.

Our pupils have worked incredibly hard, showing commitment, resilience and a genuine desire to do their best. Congratulations to all our pupils for their hard work, curiosity, empathy, teamwork and kindness and thank you to Y6 parents for their wonderful support of the pupils and the school.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### Key performance indicators

Maharishi School is of the view that due to its unique nature and size it is difficult to find comparable schools against which to be benchmarked; the benchmark set provided by the DfE contains two schools. We have compared our financial performance against these schools using the benchmarking tool and the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool SRMSA. The checklist data from which is submitted to the ESFA on the school, which used 2022/23 data. This document states the comparison is with other through schools, which experience indicates tend to be academies. The benchmarking tool has been utilised with three different routes of comparison, for which a comprehensive summary report was then produced. This method enabled comparisons with different schools according to the comparison criteria, although some appeared in more than one route group. It was found that the comparator schools were not particularly good matches for Maharishi School for varying reasons. Also, the reporting methodologies for some schools differed from our school, in some cases producing unrealistic figures against which to contrast our own.

Environmentally Maharishi Secondary School is fortunate to occupy a building originally constructed using natural materials wherever practicable, including rammed earth walls. This building was converted for the School's conversion to Free School Status, under the auspices of the Department for Education, to the latest environmental performance standards, including a new roof. The subsequent addition of CCTV cameras and a higher fence have significantly improved the security and safeguarding provision of the Secondary site. There is a longer-term plan to upgrade the Primary School site to achieve more energy efficiency through a new heating system and installation of solar panels. From February 2016, the reception class and other functions occupied a new, stand-alone classroom, constructed largely of timber products and to the highest energy-efficiency standards then current.

The school was not affected by RAAC; the building material found in some school buildings and other education settings, known as Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete.

The school continues to find that the introduction of Chromebooks operating through the Google Education platform and operating via Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced the learning experience for pupils and maximised the amount of teaching time within lessons. During periods of extended pupil absence, the school continues to make extensive use of online platforms and teaching in order that students remain up to date with their learning.

#### Going concern

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

#### **Financial review**

##### Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The school Finance Committee regularly reviews the Trust's financial status, including risks and potential forecast pressures and work towards ending each year with a balanced budget in order to maintain sufficient reserves. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the school from potential risks and are also subject to review.

The year in question is the eleventh year in which the school has participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme, from which the Actuaries report indicates a scheme surplus of £130,000 (2023: £112,000). Given the current uncertain economic climate, the trustees consider that it would be imprudent to reflect this surplus in the Financial Statements.

##### Headteacher Risks and Uncertainties

Outlined below are the Headteacher risks that may affect the Maharishi School Trust.

- Maharishi School Trust has considerable reliance on government funding through the ESFA. In 2023/24, approximately 96% (the same as 2022/23) of the School's income was publicly funded and this requirement is expected to continue.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- By closely monitoring the evolving education agenda and the changes outlined by the Department for Education
- By closely monitoring the School's cost base and ensure value for money is obtained across all expenditures.
- By working to maintain and increase pupil numbers to the maximum possible roll in order to receive the maximum achievable ESFA funding.

#### Reserves policy

The governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### Financial position

The School held fund balances at 31 August 2024 of £963,190 (2023 - £918,100) comprising £814,380 (2023 - £774,084) of restricted funds and £148,810 (2023 - £144,016) of unrestricted general funds.

#### Investment policy

During the financial year Maharishi School Trust Ltd had a cash balance of £260,173, and the governing body has renewed the placing of a sum in a deposit account to maximise income from its balances. The objective of the academy is to ensure that sufficient funds are available at short or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements, while earning an acceptable rate of return without undue risk.

#### **Fundraising**

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the trustees.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The school will continue working to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels, and will also maintain its recruitment up to the maximum capacity of our buildings. The School has significantly upgraded its built environment in recent years and is working to continue this work, to create improved conditions for both pupil learning and staff working.

#### **Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The Academy and its Governors do not act as the custodian trustees for any other Charity.

#### **Auditor**

As set out in the Academies Trust Handbook, Academy trusts should re-tender their audit contract at least every five years. The academy trust procured the services of Cooper Parry through a Department for Education (DfE) framework.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of governors, as the company directors, on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....

I Birnbaum

**Chairman**

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### Scope of responsibility

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust Ltd has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Maharishi School Trust Ltd and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The board of governors has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of governors was as follows:

<b>Governors</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
I Birnbaum	6	6
L J Edwards	6	6
A O'Neill	5	6
C L McCloskey (Appointed 7 February 2024)	3	4
C K Latham	6	6
C Winteringham	5	6
G Evans	1	6
J R H Lees	6	6
L Gaskell	6	6
L V Walters	6	6
M Ingram	6	6
R F Hobson (Appointed 7 February 2024)	3	4
R W Buswell	5	6
R Marriott	5	6
L E J Andrews (Resigned 8 November 2024)		
J Duckett (Resigned 9 August 2024)		
J Smalley (Resigned 7 December 2023)		

- Regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management risks.

The board of trustees appointed a new Responsible Officer from Cooper Parry, who heads up their internal audit services function for the education sector.

The Academy Trust Handbook states that all academy trusts must have a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the board that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively. The trust must identify on a risk-basis (with reference to its risk register) the areas it will review each year, modifying its checks accordingly.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **Conflicts of interest**

All members, Trustees, governors and staff with purchasing authority are required to declare their interests annually by completing the Declaration of Interest proforma. This is reviewed by the academy and held by the Trust.

The declaration of interest is updated on an annual basis or when changes occur.

Members, Trustees, Governors and Staff are advised that if not sure what to declare, or whether / when any declaration needs to be updated, that they should err on the side of caution. The Chair of the Board of Trustees provides advice and it is their responsibility to ensure that professional advice (ie, from the auditors) is sought where necessary.

Interests are recorded on the Trust's Register of Interests, which is maintained by the Clerk. The register is available on request.

At each meeting, the clerk asks for any conflicts of interest to be declared.

### **Meetings**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. So that the board are fully aware of the financial position a Trustee has been invited to each Finance Planning meeting. All Trustees are sent a monthly report so that they are up to date with the current financial position and LGB minutes are reviewed to ensure the finance put into the place to deliver the priorities in the School Development plan are being utilised effectively.

### **Governance reviews**

We have had 3 reviews made by external agencies throughout the year. These are Income, Expenditure and Budgetary control. The reports were distributed to the Trustees and actions were put into place to address any outstanding issues.

Actions to be put into place were:

#### Income

- a) More care to be taken to ensure income is posted to the correct nominal.
- b) Invoices should be raised in a more timely fashion to ensure that debts can be chased sooner and to ensure that parents/guardians can't run up large balances.
- c) Consider additional controls and measures to be implemented to avoid large debts being ran up.
- d) Consider the implementation of a booking system for OOH care.

#### Expenditure

- a) Ensure that purchase orders are raised for all items of expenditure.
- b) Bank details for new supplier set-up should be subject to an independent check to reduce fraud risk.
- c) Ensure that all petty cash claims are properly authorised and supporting evidence is provided.
- d) Remind staff that an internal order form must be signed by the budget holder and then approved by the finance team before any purchases are made.

#### Budgetary control

- a) Management accounts need to be prepared and shared with trustees monthly not quarterly.
- b) Ensure that a balance sheet is produced as part of the monthly management accounts pack.
- c) Consider providing for depreciation in the monthly management accounts.

### **Finance, Audit and Risk subcommittee**

The Finance, Audit and Risk committee is a sub-committee of the main board of governors. Its purpose is to set and monitor the budget and provide assurance to the Trust Board that the systems and practices within the Trust adhere to the Academy Trust handbook.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
I Birnbaum	6	6
L J Edwards	6	6
R W Buswell	6	6

#### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- renegotiation of the IT Support contracts
- renegotiation of the Photocopying contracts

#### The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Maharishi School Trust Ltd for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

#### Capacity to handle risk

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

#### The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint a new Responsible Officer from School Business Services, following the appointment of Cooper Parry as external auditors, who heads up their internal audit services function for the education sector.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Income
- Expenditure
- Budgetary control

On a termly basis, the auditor reports to the board of governors through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of governors. On an annual basis, the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Academy Trust Handbook states that all academy trusts must have a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the board that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively. The trust must identify on a risk-basis (with reference to its risk register) the areas it will review each year, modifying its checks accordingly.

#### **Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the external auditor
- correspondence from ESFA, eg financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and a plan to address weaknesses [if relevant] and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

#### **Conclusion**

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

Approved by order of the board of governors on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

I Birnbaum  
**Chair of Trustees**

L J Edwards  
**Accounting Officer**

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024***

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

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

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

L J Edwards  
**Accounting Officer**

.....

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The governors (who act as trustees for Maharishi School Trust Ltd and are also the directors of Maharishi School Trust Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the governors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the governors are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of governors on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

I Birnbaum  
**Chair of Trustees**

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the governors' 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 academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of governors**

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

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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

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

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

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.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024*

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance.
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including tax, and industry specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: recognition of income and misappropriation of funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks the academy operates in, focussing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and Academies Accounts Direction.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation claims;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through inappropriate recording of income, we review the existence and completeness of ESFA income and reconcile all other material income streams to third party evidence;
- We carry out a detailed review of deferred income, including a review of amounts released to income in the year.
- We review a sample of expenditure to ensure it has been appropriately authorised and that tender process have been followed where applicable;
- We carry out a review of the register of interests and minutes to ensure that all related parties have been disclosed adequately;
- In assessing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and assessing whether judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

### **Use of our report**

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

**Stephen Grayson ACA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Cooper Parry Group Limited

.....

**Statutory Auditor**

St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6HT

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 November 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Maharishi School Trust Ltd during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Maharishi School Trust Ltd and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Maharishi School Trust Ltd and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Maharishi School Trust Ltd and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Maharishi School Trust Ltd's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

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

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

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

In line with the Framework and guide for External auditors and Reporting Accountants of academy Trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024*

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### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Reporting Accountant**

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Dated: .....

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,520	9,678	7,032	19,230	55,017
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	21,623	1,598,125	-	1,619,748	1,403,041
Other trading activities	5	23,487	28,688	-	52,175	33,844
Investments	6	96	-	-	96	640
<b>Total</b>		<u>47,726</u>	<u>1,636,491</u>	<u>7,032</u>	<u>1,691,249</u>	<u>1,492,542</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	7,932	-	-	7,932	51,630
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	35,000	1,580,292	14,935	1,630,227	1,487,299
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>42,932</u>	<u>1,580,292</u>	<u>14,935</u>	<u>1,638,159</u>	<u>1,538,929</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		4,794	56,199	(7,903)	53,090	(46,387)
Transfers between funds	16	-	4,736	(4,736)	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	12,000	-	12,000	-
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	18	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		4,794	52,935	(12,639)	45,090	(46,387)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		144,016	47,553	726,531	918,100	964,487
Total funds carried forward		<u>148,810</u>	<u>100,488</u>	<u>713,892</u>	<u>963,190</u>	<u>918,100</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	6,045	20,066	28,906	55,017
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,403,041	-	1,403,041
Other trading activities	5	33,844	-	-	33,844
Investments	6	640	-	-	640
<b>Total</b>		<u>40,529</u>	<u>1,423,107</u>	<u>28,906</u>	<u>1,492,542</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7	22,140	29,490	-	51,630
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	16,357	1,470,942	-	1,487,299
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>38,497</u>	<u>1,500,432</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,538,929</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		2,032	(77,325)	28,906	(46,387)
Transfers between funds	16	-	15,145	(15,145)	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>141,984</u>	<u>109,733</u>	<u>712,770</u>	<u>964,487</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>144,016</u>	<u>47,553</u>	<u>726,531</u>	<u>918,100</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		704,892		721,635
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	86,427		53,883	
Cash at bank and in hand		260,173		276,801	
		<u>346,600</u>		<u>330,684</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(88,302)		(134,219)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			258,298		196,465
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>			963,190		918,100
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>963,190</u>		<u>918,100</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	16				
- Fixed asset funds			713,892		726,531
- Restricted income funds			100,488		47,553
			<u>814,380</u>		<u>774,084</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			814,380		774,084
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	16		148,810		144,016
			<u>148,810</u>		<u>144,016</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>963,190</u>		<u>918,100</u>

The accounts on pages 25 to 46 were approved by the governors and authorised for issue on ..... and are signed on their behalf by:

.....  
I Birnbaum  
**Chair of Trustees**

Company registration number 01902341 (England and Wales)

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19		(25,564)		38,704
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		96		640	
Capital grants from DfE Group		7,032		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,058)		(15,120)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		2,866		-	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>			8,936		(14,480)
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(16,628)		24,224
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			276,801		252,577
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			260,173		276,801

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# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants

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

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

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

###### Sponsorship income

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

###### Donations

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

###### Other income

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

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Freehold Land and Buildings	1-25% straight line
Fixture & Equipment	25% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

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

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leased assets

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

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

##### Financial assets

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

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

##### Financial liabilities

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

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

#### 1.9 Taxation

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

#### 1.10 Pensions benefits

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

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

#### 1.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the governors.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

#### **Local Government Pension Scheme Liability:**

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a surplus within the Local Government Pension Scheme "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan." The Academy Trust has considered it unlikely that a surplus being recognised would ever result in a repayment or reduction in contributions, given that such a surplus is probably only temporary.

Therefore, although the actuarial report for the year ended 31 August 2024 indicates a defined benefit asset of £130,000 (2023: £112,000) exists at the year end date, the actuarial gain has been restricted by this amount to leave a break even position and neither an asset or liability has been recognised.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the Academy Trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The Academy Trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

The key assumption is the discount rate, which is the estimated rate of long-term investment returns. This year the discount rate of 5.0% is lower than the rate of 5.30% used in 2023. Since a lower discount rate means assets will not grow rapidly in the future, this results in lower current liabilities. This is the key driver for the increase in the carried LGPS asset from £112k to £130k during the year.

#### Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Capital grants	-	7,032	7,032	28,906
Other donations	2,520	9,678	12,198	26,111
	<u>2,520</u>	<u>16,710</u>	<u>19,230</u>	<u>55,017</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,369,671	1,369,671	1,322,628
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	61,516	61,516	-
- Others	-	59,443	59,443	80,413
	-	1,490,630	1,490,630	1,403,041
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	107,495	107,495	-
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	21,623	-	21,623	-
<b>Total funding</b>	21,623	1,598,125	1,619,748	1,403,041

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Catering income	2,343	-	2,343	1,516
Trip income	-	28,688	28,688	-
Other income	21,144	-	21,144	32,328
	23,487	28,688	52,175	33,844

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Short term deposits	96	-	96	640

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total	Total
	£	Premises	Other	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	7,932	7,932	51,630
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	926,959	-	205,499	1,132,458	1,069,541
- Allocated support costs	354,486	81,737	61,546	497,769	417,758
	<u>1,281,445</u>	<u>81,737</u>	<u>274,977</u>	<u>1,638,159</u>	<u>1,538,929</u>

#### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	83	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	17,801	26,331
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(2,866)	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	12,500	6,050
- Other services	2,500	4,350
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(7,000)	-
	<u>17,801</u>	<u>36,731</u>

### 8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	35,000	1,097,458	1,132,458	1,069,541
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	497,769	497,769	417,758
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>1,595,227</u>	<u>1,630,227</u>	<u>1,487,299</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	358,762	253,119
Depreciation	14,935	-
Premises costs	66,802	53,500
Legal costs	9,909	-
Other support costs	29,185	44,925
Governance costs	18,176	66,214
	<u>497,769</u>	<u>417,758</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	955,787	889,053
Social security costs	74,875	79,051
Pension costs	215,647	184,458
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	1,246,309	1,152,562
Agency staff costs	35,136	61,623
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff development and other staff costs	1,281,445	1,214,185
	54,711	19,475
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	1,336,156	1,233,660
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	14	14
Administration and support	17	17
Management	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34	34
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £345,253 (2023: £314,566).

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 10 Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as governors.

The value of governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

L Edwards (principle and trustee):

Remuneration £60,000- £65,000 (2023: £45,000-£50,000)  
Employer's pension contributions £15,000-£20,000

L Walters (Deputy Head)

Remuneration £45,000-£50,000 (2023:£40,000-£45,000)  
Employer's pension contributions £10,000-£15,000

L Gaskell (Deputy Head)

Remuneration £45,000-£50,000 (2023:£40,000-£45,000)  
Employer's pension contributions £10,000-£15,000

M Ingram (Consciousness based education lead)

Remuneration £25,000-£30,000 (2023:£40,000-£45,000)  
Employer's pension contributions 5,000-£10,000

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

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees within the year.

### 11 Governors' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustee and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business, and provided cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixture & Equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2023	891,030	134,264	304,988	7,300	1,337,582
Additions	-	1,058	-	-	1,058
Disposals	-	-	-	(7,300)	(7,300)
At 31 August 2024	891,030	135,322	304,988	-	1,331,340
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2023	180,719	126,187	301,741	7,300	615,947
On disposals	-	-	-	(7,300)	(7,300)
Charge for the year	13,035	3,080	1,686	-	17,801
At 31 August 2024	193,754	129,267	303,427	-	626,448
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2024	697,276	6,055	1,561	-	704,892
At 31 August 2023	710,311	8,077	3,247	-	721,635

### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	4,606	2,711
VAT recoverable	12,360	9,206
Prepayments and accrued income	69,461	41,966
	86,427	53,883

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	22,319	55,851
Other taxation and social security	17,277	30,295
Other creditors	25,082	34,236
Accruals and deferred income	23,624	13,837
	88,302	134,219

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 15 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	8,824	6,050
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	6,050	6,880
Released from previous years	(6,050)	(6,880)
Resources deferred in the year	8,824	6,050
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	8,824	6,050

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds received in advance from the ESFA relating to Pupil Premium £8,824 for the following academic year.

### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	28,824	1,369,671	(1,321,472)	23,465	100,488
Pupil premium	-	61,516	(61,516)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	59,443	(59,443)	-	-
Other government grants	-	107,495	(107,495)	-	-
Other restricted funds	18,729	38,366	(38,366)	(18,729)	-
Pension reserve	-	-	8,000	(8,000)	-
	47,553	1,636,491	(1,580,292)	(3,264)	100,488
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE group capital grants	726,531	7,032	(14,935)	(4,736)	713,892
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	774,084	1,643,523	(1,595,227)	(8,000)	814,380
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	144,016	47,726	(42,932)	-	148,810
<b>Total funds</b>	918,100	1,691,249	(1,638,159)	(8,000)	963,190

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 16 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy.

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

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

Transfer of funds from General Annual Grant restricted general funds to restricted fixed asset funds are to fund assets for which no capital grant was received.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	73,556	1,322,628	(1,382,505)	15,145	28,824
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	80,413	(80,413)	-	-
Other restricted funds	36,177	20,066	(37,514)	-	18,729
	<u>109,733</u>	<u>1,423,107</u>	<u>(1,500,432)</u>	<u>15,145</u>	<u>47,553</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE group capital grants	<u>712,770</u>	<u>28,906</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,145)</u>	<u>726,531</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>822,503</u>	<u>1,452,013</u>	<u>(1,500,432)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>774,084</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>141,984</u>	<u>40,529</u>	<u>(38,497)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,016</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>964,487</u>	<u>1,492,542</u>	<u>(1,538,929)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>918,100</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	704,892	704,892
Current assets	237,112	100,488	9,000	346,600
Current liabilities	(88,302)	-	-	(88,302)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>148,810</b>	<b>100,488</b>	<b>713,892</b>	<b>963,190</b>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	721,635	721,635
Current assets	278,235	47,553	4,896	330,684
Current liabilities	(134,219)	-	-	(134,219)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>144,016</b>	<b>47,553</b>	<b>726,531</b>	<b>918,100</b>

### 18 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £25,848 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £34,236) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

#### 18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £146,502 (2023: £109,204).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.7% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2024 £	2023 £
Employer's contributions	69,000	67,000
Employees' contributions	20,000	19,000
Total contributions	89,000	86,000

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5	5.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.8

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.2	21
- Females	25.2	23.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21	22.2
- Females	23.5	25.2

#### Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024	2023
Discount rate + 0.1%	(18)	(15)
Mortality assumption + 1 year	20	15
CPI rate + 0.1%	19	15

#### Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2024 £	2023 £
Scheme assets	1,140,000	940,000
Scheme obligations	(1,010,000)	(828,000)
Net asset	130,000	112,000
Restriction on scheme surplus	(130,000)	(112,000)
Total liability recognised	-	-

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

#### The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	543,780	455,000
Bonds	2,280	4,000
Cash	15,960	6,000
Property	96,900	89,000
Other assets	481,080	386,000
	<u>1,140,000</u>	<u>940,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £73,000 (2023: £20,000).

#### Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	68,000	86,000
Interest income	(53,000)	(38,000)
Interest cost	46,000	36,000
	<u>61,000</u>	<u>84,000</u>

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

#### Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	828,000	834,000
Current service cost	68,000	86,000
Interest cost	46,000	36,000
Employee contributions	20,000	19,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	10,000	(136,000)
Benefits paid	38,000	(11,000)
	<u>1,010,000</u>	<u>828,000</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

#### Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 September 2023	940,000	848,000
Interest income	51,000	36,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	22,000	(19,000)
Employer contributions	69,000	67,000
Employee contributions	20,000	19,000
Benefits paid	38,000	(11,000)
	<u>1,140,000</u>	<u>940,000</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,140,000</u>	<u>940,000</u>

### 19 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
Notes	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	53,090	(46,387)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(7,032)	-
Investment income receivable	6 (96)	(640)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18 (1,000)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18 (7,000)	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	17,801	26,331
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(2,866)	-
(Increase) in debtors	(32,544)	(27,831)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(45,917)	87,231
	<u>(25,564)</u>	<u>38,704</u>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(25,564)</u>	<u>38,704</u>

### 20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023	Cash flows	31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash	276,801	(16,628)	260,173
	<u>276,801</u>	<u>(16,628)</u>	<u>260,173</u>

# MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 21 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	15,848	4,432
Amounts due in two and five years	50,993	15,883
	<u>66,841</u>	<u>20,315</u>

### 22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2024, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Gracious Grub- a Trustee of Maharishi School Trust, L Andrews, is also a caterer at Gracious Grub.

- The Trust purchased food totalling £1,020.

Maharishi Dome - A number of Maharishi School Trust Trustees are members of Maharishi Dome.

- The trust made contributions totalling £2,717 in relation to hire of the dome for meditation sessions for the high school pupils.

### 23 Members' liability

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

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

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# Accounts

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**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

***Company Limited by Guarantee***  
***Registration Number: 1902341 (England and Wales)***  
***Charity Registration Number: 517958***

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **CONTENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 – 2
Trustees’ Report	3 - 11
Governance Statement	12 - 21
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	22
Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities	23
Independent Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements	24 - 25
Independent Auditor’s Report on Regularity	26 - 27
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	28 - 29
Balance Sheet	30
Cash Flow Statement	31
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating:	
Statement of Accounting Policies	32 - 36
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	37 – 54

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### Governors (Trustees)

\*Member of Finance Committee

A O'Neill	Appointed 5 November 2022
C Latham	Appointed 1 September 2022
C Winteringham	
G Evans	
I Birnbaum* (Chair)	
J Smalley	Appointed 30 November 2022
J Duckett	Appointed 1 November 2022
J Lees	Appointed 1 September 2022
L Gaskell	
L Edwards*	
L Walters	
L Andrews	Appointed 1 November 2022
M Ingram	Appointed 5 May 2023
R Marriott	
R Trandafoiu	Retired 31 October 2022
P Duckworth	Retired 31 October 2022
L Wilkinson	Retired 31 October 2022
Secretary	
P Magee	Appointed 1 September 2022

On 14 October 2023 Mr R Buswell\* was appointed as a Trustee.

#### Senior managers

Principal/Accounting Officer	L Edwards*
Deputy Head - Secondary	L Walters
Deputy Head - Primary	L Gaskell
Business Manager	P Magee Appointed 1/9/2022
Registered Office	Cobbs Brow Lane Lathom L40 6JJ Tel: 01695 729912
Company Registration Number	1902341 (England and Wales)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

Auditors	JVSA Ltd Chartered Accountants Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park 48 Southport Road Ormskirk L39 1QR
Bankers	Lloyds PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
Solicitors	HY Education 3, Reed House, Hunter's Ln, Rochdale OL16 1YL

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Constitution**

The School is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 1902341). The Academy Trust's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the School together with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Education. Members of the Academy Trust comprise of the signatories to the memorandum, up to 3 persons who may be appointed by Maharishi Foundation and 1 person who may be appointed by the Secretary of State, the Chair of Governors and others whom existing members may unanimously appoint. The articles of association require the members of the Academy Trust to appoint at least three governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs and management of the School.

##### **Members' liability**

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

##### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million for governors' liability on any one occurrence.

##### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Maharishi School Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 16 known as Consciousness-based Education.

##### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The governors who were in office at 31 August 2023 and served throughout the year are listed on page 1. During the year under review the governors held 6 meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide information on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors will be given a tour of the School, including the chance to meet with staff and students.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees continued**

All governors are provided with access to copies of our policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors. As the number of new governors a year is limited, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

Company law requires the governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, the governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 governors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The governors confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as governors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Academy Trust's auditors are aware of that information. The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Academy Trust's website.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The structure consists of two levels: The Governors and The Senior Managers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The next layer is the Senior Managers, these are the Head teacher, two Deputy Heads and the Business Manager. These managers control the School at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Governor.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Risk Management**

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, child protection, health and safety, data protection, relationships and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, security of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover through the DfE RPA scheme. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control**

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance, that:-

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control continued**

The governors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed UHY Hacker Young as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems on a termly basis. The Internal Audit Committee which is a sub-group of the Finance Committee, holds termly meetings to review the Responsible Officer's reports and make recommendations accordingly.

The Responsible Officer is required to report to the Governing Body, via the Internal Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. These arrangements provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

#### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The main objectives of the School during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- to maintain the primacy of Consciousness-based Education as the unique educational strategy;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of appropriate resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the School by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

#### **Public Benefit**

One of Maharishi Free School's guiding principles is "The world is my family".

We recognise the unity of every individual with every aspect of the world, not only other people, but the whole environment. A practical expression of this is the fundraising of various types our pupils undertake for those in need, both at home and around the world. In the last year the school has raised money for BBC Children in Need and in conjunction with the school fundraising committee held successful Fairs: the winter fair was held at the high school site and the summer fair at nearby Newburgh Sports Club.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Public Benefit continued**

The school is also licenced to operate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and often has the highest proportion of involved pupils in the region. Sufficient time and resource is allowed for pupils to work towards both Bronze and Silver awards. The Duke of Edinburgh award includes the requirement of participants to undertake a volunteering activity.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit by seeking to promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise. In support of this Maharishi School provides its highly beneficial system of Consciousness-based Education to as many children as possible within the physical constraints of the current buildings. Despite this the school is often unable to satisfy demand for places, both locally and beyond. As a result, from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 the Governing Body increased class sizes from 18 to 20. The school also actively supports parents in learning the practical element of Consciousness-based Education, the Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique by procuring funds for this purpose.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The School is in its twelfth year of operation as a Free School and continues to attract students for all year groups. Total students at the year ended on 31st August 2023 numbered 233.

Pupils' achievement in KS2 SATs:

- In reading 65% of pupils passed compared with 73% nationally.
- In writing, 60% of pupils passed compared with 71% nationally.
- In maths, 55% of children passed compared with 73% nationally.

Progress measures in reading and writing are within the estimated confidence intervals:

- Reading -2 (Confidence Interval 2.9)
- Writing -1.7 (Confidence Interval 2.8)
- Maths -3.7 (Confidence Interval 2.7)

Y6 pupils attended a weekly English booster session with an English specialist. Groups of targeted children attended maths boosters twice a week with the secondary phase maths teacher and an external teacher (School-led Tutoring funding). Children also attended maths club after school with the class teacher and deputy headteacher. Maths is a School Improvement Plan focus for 2023-2024 and includes involvement with a local Maths Hub throughout the year.

Pupils achieve mostly good results across a broad range of subjects at GCSE level:

- The Attainment 8 score was 47, compared to a national average of 49 (2022).
- The % of pupils receiving grade 5+ in both English and maths was 35% compared to a national average of 38% (2023 estimate).
- The % of pupils receiving grade 4+ in both English and maths is 65% compared to a national average of 57% (2023 estimate).
- The % of pupils receiving grade 5+ in their Ebacc subjects is 18% compared to a national average of 22% (2022).
- Ebacc entry was 94% compared with a national average of 39% (2022).
- Ebacc points were 4.67 compared with a national average of 4.27 (2022).
- The estimated Progress 8 score is 0.2 (which is in the statistical range of the national average).

School-led tutoring funding was used in maths and English at the secondary phase

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the School operates a programme of standardised testing of ability, attainment and attitude including Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS), Progress Test in Maths (PiM), Progress Test in English (PiE) and Progress Test in Science (PiS) scores, and Cognitive Ability Testing (CAT). Peer and Governor observation of lessons takes place and the school organises visits by external inspectors. Staff maintain contacts with other local schools to share and learn successful practice. Maharishi School continues to be part of the "Shares" cluster of local schools in which training, information and practice experience are shared to benefit all cluster members equally.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators**

Maharishi School is of the view that due to its unique nature and size it is difficult to find comparable schools against which to be benchmarked; the benchmark set provided by the DfE contains three schools. We have compared our financial performance against these schools using the benchmarking tool and the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool SRMSA. The checklist data from which is submitted to the ESFA on the school, which used 2021/22 data. This document states the comparison is with other through schools, which experience indicates tend to be academies. The benchmarking tool has been utilised with three different routes of comparison, for which a comprehensive summary report was then produced. This method enabled comparisons with different schools according to the comparison criteria, although some appeared in more than one route group. It was found that the comparator schools were not particularly good matches for Maharishi School for varying reasons. Also, the reporting methodologies for some schools differed from our school, in some cases producing unrealistic figures against which to contrast our own.

Environmentally Maharishi Secondary School is fortunate to occupy a building originally constructed using natural materials wherever practicable, including rammed earth walls. This building was converted for the School's conversion to Free School Status, under the auspices of the Department for Education, to the latest environmental performance standards, including a new roof. The subsequent addition of CCTV cameras and a higher fence have significantly improved the security and safeguarding provision of the Secondary site. There is a longer term plan to upgrade the Primary School site to achieve more energy efficient buildings. From February 2016, the reception class and other functions occupied a new, stand-alone classroom, constructed largely of timber products and to the highest energy-efficiency standards then current.

The school was not affected by RAAC; the building material found in some school buildings and other education settings, known as Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators continued**

The school continues to find that the introduction of Chromebooks operating through the Google Education platform and operating via Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced the learning experience for pupils and maximised the amount of teaching time within lessons. During periods of extended pupil absence, the school continues to make extensive use of online platforms and teaching in order that students remain up to date with their learning.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The school Finance Committee regularly reviews the Trust's financial status, including risks and potential forecast pressures and work towards ending each year with a balanced budget in order to maintain sufficient reserves. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the school from potential risks and are also subject to review.

The year in question is the tenth year in which the school has participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme, from which the Actuaries report indicates a scheme surplus of £112,000 (2022 : £14,000). Given the current uncertain economic climate, the Trustees consider that it would be imprudent to reflect this surplus in the Financial Statements.

##### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Outlined below are the principal risks that may affect the Maharishi School Trust.

- 1 Maharishi School Trust has considerable reliance on government funding through the ESFA. In 2022/23, approximately 96% (2022 : 95%) of the School's income was publicly funded and this requirement is expected to continue.

This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- 2 By closely monitoring the evolving education agenda and the changes outlined by the Department for Education
- 3 By closely monitoring the School's cost base and ensure value for money is obtained across all expenditures.
- 4 By working to maintain and increase pupil numbers to the maximum possible roll in order to receive the maximum achievable ESFA funding

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Reserves policy**

The governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### **Financial position**

The School held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £918,100 (2022 - £964,487) comprising £774,084 (2022 - £822,503) of restricted funds and £144,016 (2022 - £141,984) of unrestricted general funds.

#### **Investment Policy**

During the financial year Maharishi School Trust Ltd had a cash balance of £276,801, and the governing body has renewed the placing of a sum in a deposit account to maximise income from its balances. The objective of the academy is to ensure that sufficient funds are available at short or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements, while earning an acceptable rate of return without undue risk.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The school will continue working to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels, and will also maintain its recruitment up to the maximum capacity of our buildings. The School has significantly upgraded its built environment in recent years and is working to continue this work, to create improved conditions for both pupil learning and staff working.

#### **AUDITORS**

As set out in the Academies Trust Handbook, Academy trusts should re-tender their audit contract at least every five years. The academy trust will procure the services through a Department for Education (DfE) framework.

The report of the governors was approved by the governors on 7 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,  
Chairman**

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Maharishi School Trust Limited and the Secretary of State of Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statements of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year, utilising Google Meet for those members unable to make the meeting in person.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum (Chair)	6	6
L Edwards	6	6
A O'Neill	5	6
C Latham	6	6
C Winteringham	3	6
G Evans	5	6
J Smalley	2	6
J Duckett	5	6
J Lees	4	6
L Gaskell	6	6
L Walters	6	6
L Andrews	4	5
M Ingram	4	6
R Buswell	6	6
R Marriott	6	6
<b>Non Trustee</b>		
P Magee (Clerk)	6	6

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Governance continued**

#### **Finance Committee**

The committee assists the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the School's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Finance Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Consider the financial aspects of particular matters specifically referred to the committee.
2. Consider the School's indicative budget funding obtained from the Ready Reckoner and to assess its implications for the School in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager in advance of the financial year involved, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
3. Consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the School budget, at the start of each financial year, (1st September – 31st August.)
4. Contribute to the evolution of the School's Development Plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager within the School's stated and agreed aims and objectives.
5. Receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
6. Agree limits of delegation and virements.
7. Liaise with and receive reports from other Governing Body committees as appropriate and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
8. Monitor and review income and expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the School and with the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Education and Skills Funding Agency or Department for Education, including the school's own internal financial regulations, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
9. Monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Governance continued**

10. Prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Governing Body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act requirements.
11. Receive Auditors and Responsible Officers reports and to recommend to Governing Body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
12. Recommend to the Governing Body the appointment or reappointment of the Trust's auditors.
13. Develop and recommend to the Governing Body policies on charging, lettings and contracts that are in accordance with Financial Regulations and advise governors on the financial implications of adopting certain policies.
14. Additional items as required/agreed.

#### **Premises**

1. Follow the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the Department for Education and other relevant statutory authorities concerning the upkeep of buildings and land.
2. Ensure that the conditions of the premises and grounds are monitored and receive regular reports.
3. Ensure that resources are available to implement repair and maintenance as required and in a timely manner.
4. Prepare a statement of priorities for maintenance and development (Asset Management Plan.)
5. Receive regular reports on the general maintenance of the premises and grounds and inform the Governing Body of the effectiveness of any planned maintenance programmes/Asset Management Plan.
6. Approve the budget allocation for maintenance, repairs and redecoration.
7. Oversee the preparation, implementation and monitoring of premises-related contracts.
8. Prepare a letting policy for the approval of the Governing Body and to monitor and advise the Governing Body on the use of the school by outside bodies.
9. Consider and advise the Governing Body on matters relating to the efficient and effective use of the premises and grounds.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### Governance continued

10. Draft and review the Academy's Disaster Recovery Plan and make recommendations to the Governing Body.
11. Be aware of the extent of insurance cover on premises and equipment and review annually.
12. Additional items as required/agreed.

Attendance at finance committee meetings in the year was as follows

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum	6	6
L Edwards	6	6
R Buswell	5	6
<b>Non-Trustees</b>		
J Scott	5	6
P Mitchell	6	6
G McHarg	5	6

#### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guidance in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022-23 regarding value for money statements published by the Education Funding Standards Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer has set out below how she has ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

#### Maharishi School 2022-23 Value for Money statement

This statement is to show that Maharishi School Trust's use of public assets and funds has provided good value for money during the year, and to identify any opportunities for potential improvement, particularly in respect of the following:

- the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources, for example to produce better educational results;
- the avoidance of waste and extravagance;

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

- the prudent and economical administration of the organisation;
- the establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, (including sound internal spending controls, keeping up-to-date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting); and
- ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.

Maharishi School Trust opened as a Free School in September 2011 with a capital cost to the Department for Education of under £1million, compared to the average premises cost of setting up a Free School published by the National Audit Office of £6.6 million. The school was originally conceived on the basis of 15 pupils per class but, due to high levels of demand, we have increased class sizes to 18 by stages, and increasing this to 20 pupils per class from 2022-23. The fact of smaller class sizes ensures that teachers can devote more time to individual pupils and their particular requirements. Maharishi School Trust, in keeping with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, has all the relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Trust is properly run and provides value for money.

All matters relating to finance are referred to the Finance Committee, which is acutely aware of the Trust's limited budget and the pressures on it. They have actively questioned expenditure proposals, challenged variances, advised on strategy and expressed their reporting requirements. When satisfied, the Finance Committee have then made appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body. Also, as required, the school has the function of an internal audit in the form of an Internal Audit Committee, as allowed due to the Trusts' size. As required in the Academies Trust Handbook, the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer is part of this committee. All academy trusts must have a program of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the Governing Body that its financial and other controls, and risk management procedures, are operating effectively. Maharishi employs the services of an external Responsible Officer to carry out internal scrutiny reviews.

The internal scrutiny reviews during the year have focused on:

1. Evaluating the suitability of, and level of compliance with, financial and other controls. This includes assessing whether procedures are designed effectively and efficiently, and checking transactions to confirm whether agreed procedures have been followed;
2. Providing advice and insight to the Governing Body on how to address weaknesses in financial and other controls, acting as a catalyst for improvement, but without diluting management's responsibility for day to day running of the Trust;
3. Ensuring all categories of risk are being adequately identified, reported and managed;

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

4. The internal scrutiny has taken account of output from other assurance procedures, for example, we have regard to recommendations from the external auditors as described in their management letter, and from any relevant reviews undertaken by ESFA.

The internal scrutiny procedures are designed to assist the trustees in discharging their responsibilities to have in place a process for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks. The Responsible Officer agreed with the Trust a program of work during the year that is designed to address the risks to internal financial control that are relevant to the Trust.

These bodies are subject to their own Terms of Reference/ Roles and Responsibilities documents and the Finance Committee routinely meets every other month and the Internal Audit every term. Finance meetings take place ten days before Governors' meetings to ensure that the data and topics under discussion are still current. The meeting schedule is designed to accommodate the production of Quarterly finance reports in order that matters are reported and acted upon in a timely manner. Members of the Governing Body are mostly parents of current or past pupils of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body is a former Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services of a London Borough.

Maharishi School Trust has been audited by the EFSA who have expressed their satisfaction with the financial management and governance of the Trust, including the requisite policies and procedures. These include:

- Draft internal financial regulations: these ensure that the school maintains and develops systems of financial control which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.
- Headteacher and Governing Body responsibilities: this document details the levels of decision making for all aspects of the school.
- Delegated authority table: this details the levels of authority for and conditions pertaining to expenditure amounts.
- Continuity plans for each and both school sites: these provide all the information needed to ensure the fastest possible disaster recovery of school operations.
- Risk Register: this lists all perceived potential risks to the school, level of risk and control procedures. Register updates are a Governing Body standing agenda item.
- Whistleblowing policy: this is intended to enable individuals to raise concerns about general malpractice, abuse or wrongdoing at an early stage and in the right way, without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. The policy is designed to encourage and enable individuals to raise concerns within the school or, if necessary, externally rather than to overlook a problem. (This enables any member of staff, pupil, parent or member of the public to

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

notify the relevant authority of suspected wrongdoing and ensures investigations are conducted, and if necessary acted upon, impartially and objectively.)

Since the conversion to a Free School the Maharishi School Trust Governing Body has usually approved a balanced budget with a small GAG funding carry forward within recommended guidelines. The outturn figure for 2022/23 is worse than that budgeted at £59,739 (deficit). Maharishi School holds a healthy balance of reserves, which has comfortably covered any past shortfalls. The Trust has submitted statutory financial reports, including Audited Accounts, ESFA Accounts Return and ESFA Budget Forecast Return and BFR Outturns which have satisfied the ESFA Auditors (Deloitte). The Trust has routinely compared its financial performance the Department for Education/Education and Skills Funding Agency Benchmarking systems. In the last two years this has been the online benchmarking tool, using three different criteria. (see Key Performance Indicators, page 9). We are satisfied with our performance compared to Academy Trusts generally, many of which have struggled financially in recent years, despite the diseconomies of scale due to our smaller class sizes and resultant per class funding, especially staff pupil ratio.

This demonstrates a high level of responsibility in the use of the Trust's funds. The Trust makes every effort to gain the maximum value in procurement of services and products. We are confident the Trust does very well at obtaining good value overall in procurement due to the ongoing review of suppliers and their prices by the finance and admin teams. This has included joining the DfE RPA school insurance scheme in September 2019, which represented a further saving for the school. In terms of the educational and societal outcomes of Maharishi School we can demonstrate that the resources expended are offering exceptional value for money.

Maharishi School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2017 resulting in a "Good" report overall with Outstanding in Personal Development and Welfare. The school was pleased with the report, but is not complacent and regularly reviews its areas to be developed using the school improvement plan.

Development of full potential is nurtured at Maharishi School, as indicated by other pupil achievements. In addition to statutory testing Maharishi School utilises standardised ability, attainment, and attitude testing to regularly monitor pupil abilities and social development.

Extracurricular activities are encouraged and facilitated, including the Duke of Edinburgh award. This introduction has been assisted by the school fundraising group, who also assist, for example, in school trip funding, which allows us to offer a full range of educational visits across the whole school, including residential and foreign trips. Other after-hours offerings during the year included Photography GCSE.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

Staff recruitment and deployment has been undertaken with care (using the practices recommended by 'Safer Recruitment'), and is regularly reviewed, to obtain the most beneficial outcomes for pupils. This has been particularly the case in the Primary phase which underwent planned expansion following becoming a Free School. Here, the allocation of teaching assistants and subject specialists reflects the specific requirements of classes as a whole and of individual pupils, including those requiring degrees of one-to-one support. As planned, the school now provides more targeted, specific phonics, English and maths support in both phases. During the last year there has been staff recruitment in both phases following staff emigration to further enhance the school's offering.

Maharishi School Trust started as a Free School with a good track record in both educational and pastoral provision and financial management, and continues that ethos to the present. We always proactively seek the best value in the use of our funds and will continue to refine our approach to improve on past performance. The development of our pupils is of paramount importance to us and we will continue to do whatever we can to maximise the value to them of our funding.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Maharishi School Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the School Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The Risk and Control Framework**

The school's trust system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:  
Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;

#### **Governance**

- Regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management risks.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **Governance continued**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint a new Responsible Officer from UHT Hacker Young, who heads up their internal audit services function for the education sector.

The Academy Trust Handbook states that all academy trusts must have a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the board that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively. The trust must identify on a risk-basis (with reference to its risk register) the areas it will review each year, modifying its checks accordingly.

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the responsible officer and peer review;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and general purposes committee and a plan to address weaknesses (if relevant) and ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**I Birnbaum**  
**Chair of Trustees**

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of Maharishi School Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Education and Skills Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023 published 1 September 2021 and up-dated 31 August 2023.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds of the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023 published 1 September 2021 and up-dated 31 August 2023.

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

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**  
**7 December 2023**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who act as governors of Maharishi School Trust Limited and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**Signed**

**I Birnbaum  
Chair of Trustees**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2023**

We have audited the financial statements of Maharishi School Trust Limited for the year ended 31 August 2023 on pages 28 to 54, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 32 to 36.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The responsibilities of the directors 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) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees on page 23.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees Annual Report is not consistent with those financial statements, if the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with these accounting records and returns, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2023**

#### ***BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION***

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **OPINION**

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; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the year for which the financial statements have been prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park  
48 Southport Road  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L39 1QR

7 December 2023

**C SALES (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**For and on behalf of**

**JVSA Ltd**

**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AUTHORITY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Maharishi School Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Maharishi School Trust's accounting officer and the reporting auditor**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Maharishi School Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State Education dated 9 August 2011, the Deed of Variation dated 29 August 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, published 1 September 2021 and up-dated 31 August 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Review expense claims and any unusual transactions ensuring the expenditure does not contravene the funding agreement .
- Review of work undertaken and conclusions reached by Accounting Officer and the Responsible Individual throughout the year ensuring internal control procedures have been implemented.
- Review the risk register and representations given to trustees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities including declarations of external interests.
- All minutes of committee meetings were reviewed.

#### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects of the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**C Sales**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

**7 December 2023**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
<i>Incoming Resources from generating funds</i>						
Voluntary Income	3	6,045	20,066		26,111	36,379
Activities for Generating funds	4	33,844			33,844	33,194
Investment Income	5	640			640	932
<i>Incoming Resources from charitable activities</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	6	<u>-</u>	<u>1,403,041</u>	<u>28,906</u>	<u>1,431,947</u>	<u>1,317,081</u>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>40,529</u>	<u>1,423,107</u>	<u>28,906</u>	<u>1,492,542</u>	<u>1,387,586</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
<i>Costs of generating</i>						
Voluntary income	9	-	21,208	-	21,208	16,616
Fundraising Trading	8	22,140	8,282	-	30,422	36,899
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Academy's Educational Operations	10	16,357	1,404,728	-	1,421,085	1,265,032
Governance costs	11	<u>-</u>	<u>66,214</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,214</u>	<u>61,512</u>
Total resources Expended	7	<u>38,497</u>	<u>1,500,432</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,538,929</u>	<u>1,380,059</u>
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources Before transfers		<u>2,032</u>	<u>(77,325)</u>	<u>28,906</u>	<u>(46,387)</u>	<u>7,527</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources</b>						
<b>Before transfers</b>		<b>2,032</b>	<b>(77,325)</b>	<b>28,906</b>	<b>(46,387)</b>	<b>7,527</b>
Gross transfers						
Between funds	19	<u>-</u>	<u>15,145</u>	<u>(15,145)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>						
<b>For the year</b>		<b>2,032</b>	<b>(62,180)</b>	<b>13,761</b>	<b>(46,387)</b>	<b>7,527</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial	19,28	-	-	-	-	<b>490,000</b>
<b>Net movement</b>						
<b>In funds</b>		<b>2,032</b>	<b>(62,180)</b>	<b>13,761</b>	<b>(46,387)</b>	<b>497,527</b>
Total funds						
brought forward	19	<u>141,984</u>	<u>109,733</u>	<u>712,770</u>	<u>964,487</u>	<u>466,960</u>
Total funds carried						
forward at						
31 August		<u>144,016</u>	<u>47,553</u>	<u>726,531</u>	<u>918,100</u>	<u>964,487</u>

All of the School's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.  
A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		721,635		732,846
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	53,883		26,052	
Cash at bank and in hand		276,801		252,577	
		<u>330,684</u>		<u>278,629</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	134,219		46,988	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>196,465</u>	<u>231,641</u>	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>918,100</u>	<u>964,487</u>	
Pension scheme liability	27		-	-	
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>918,100</u>	<u>964,487</u>	
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted income funds</b>					
. Fixed asset fund	18		726,531		712,770
. General fund	18		47,553		109,733
. Pension reserve	18				-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>774,084</u>		<u>822,503</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
. General fund	18		144,016		141,984
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>918,100</u>		<u>964,487</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 54 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issued on 7 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,**  
**Chairman**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	22	38,704	57,071
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	23	640	932
Capital expenditure	24	(15,120)	(7,594)
Increase in cash in the year	25	<u>24,224</u>	<u>50,409</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at 1 September 2022		252,577	202,168
Net funds at 31 August 2023		<u>276,801</u>	<u>252,577</u>

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Maharishi School Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

##### **Going Concern**

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **Incoming resources**

###### **Grants receivable**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which it is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

###### **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### **Interest receivable**

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

- **Other Income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **Donated Service and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy trust's policies.

##### **Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Costs of Generating Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations.

- **Governance Costs**

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £15,120 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy.

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

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Freehold buildings                  | 1%-25% Straight Line |
| ○ Fixtures, fittings and equipment    | 25% Straight Line    |
| ○ ICT equipment                       | 33% Straight Line    |
| ○ Minibus (included within equipment) | 25% Straight Line    |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

##### Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on an actual basis over the lease term.

##### Taxation

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **Pension Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in Note 27, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contributions scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

##### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of any pension liability.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)</b>		
<b>a. Results and Carry Forward for the Year</b>		
<b>GAG brought forward from last year</b>	73,556	78,712
GAG allocation for current year	1,322,628	1,265,899
<b>Total GAG available to spend</b>	<b>1,396,184</b>	<b>1,344,611</b>
Recurrent expenditure from GAG	1,367,360	1,271,055
<b>GAG carried forward to next year</b>	<b><u>£28,824</u></b>	<b><u>£73,556</u></b>

The Education & Skills Funding Agency (“ESFA”) will report to the Department for Education (DFE) if the GAG carried forward becomes substantial with no clear plans for its use. The Trustees do not believe that ESFA will consider this to be the case.

**3 VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Private sponsorship and donations</b>				
Miscellaneous donations	6,045	-	6,045	4,703
Duke of Edinburgh	-	2,579	2,579	2,159
Edna Linnell Legacy	-	12,410	12,410	23,173
Miscellaneous Income	-	5,077	5,077	6,344
	<u>6,045</u>	<u>20,066</u>	<u>26,111</u>	<u>36,379</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 31 August 2023

**4 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising	7,928		7,928	7,617
Pupil Trips	10,180		10,180	7,656
Uniform Sale	548		548	274
Out of Hours Income	12,694		12,694	14,984
Catering Income	1,515		1,515	1,010
Bus Transfer Income	863		863	1,404
Recipe Book	<u>116</u>		<u>116</u>	<u>249</u>
	<u>33,844</u>	-	<u>33,844</u>	<u>33,194</u>

**5 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Bank Interest	<u>640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>932</u>

**6 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	1,322,628	1,322,628	1,265,899
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,322,628</u>	<u>1,322,628</u>	<u>1,265,899</u>
<b>Other Government Grants</b>	-	80,413	80,413	44,364
	<u>-</u>	<u>80,413</u>	<u>80,413</u>	<u>44,364</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,403,041</u>	<u>1,403,041</u>	<u>1,310,263</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**7 RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure Other		Total	Total
		Premises	Costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of activities for generating funds	10,046	-	20,376	30,422	36,899
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	21,208	21,208	16,616
Academy's educational operations					
. Direct costs	903,167	26,331	140,043	1,069,541	991,776
. Allocated support costs	253,119	53,500	44,925	351,544	273,256
	1,166,332	79,831	226,552	1,472,715	1,318,547
Governance costs including allocated support costs	47,853	-	18,361	66,214	61,512
	1,214,185	79,831	244,913	1,538,929	1,380,059

**Incoming /outgoing resources for the year**

Include:	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor - audit	6,050	5,100
- other services	4,350	3,113
	£10,400	£8,213

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Catering	9,549	5,121	14,670	14,031
Uniforms	306		306	154
Marketing	2,239	3,161	5,400	2,881
Support staff costs	10,046		10,046	19,833
	22,140	8,282	30,422	36,899

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**9 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
TM Teaching		19,475	19,475	13,034
Duke of Edinburgh		1,733	1,733	3,582
	-	21,208	21,208	16,616

**10 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS  
DIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Teaching and educational support staff costs		903,167	903,167	825,022
Depreciation		26,331	26,331	26,296
Technology costs		17,206	17,206	23,735
Books, apparatus and stationery		41,115	41,115	42,857
Examination expenses		8,015	8,015	6,305
Staff development		4,179	4,179	2,185
Educational Visits	6,691	-	6,691	5,521
Other direct costs	9,211	53,626	62,837	59,855
	15,902	1,053,639	1,069,541	991,776
<b>ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS</b>				
Support staff costs		253,119	253,119	216,352
Pupil recruitment and support	455		455	266
Maintenance of premises and equipment		24,170	24,170	12,156
Cleaning		13,934	13,934	12,187
Rates		7,076	7,076	7,003
Heat and light		27,630	27,630	7,770
Insurance		5,255	5,255	4,081
Telephone		5,317	5,317	2,359
Transport		8,987	8,987	4,719
Technology costs		14	14	805
Bank charges		212	212	(202)
Other support costs		5,375	5,375	5,760
	455	351,089	351,544	273,256
<b>ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>16,357</b>	<b>1,404,728</b>	<b>1,421,085</b>	<b>1,265,032</b>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2023

**11 GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Legal and professional fees	-	7,961	7,961	10,012
Auditor's remuneration				
. Audit of financial statements	-	6,050	6,050	5,100
. Other audit costs	-	4,350	4,350	3,113
Support Staff Costs	-	47,853	47,853	43,287
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	66,214	66,214	61,512
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs comprise:

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	889,053	801,904
Social security costs	79,051	52,074
Other pension costs	184,458	175,947
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,152,562	1,029,925
Supply teacher costs	51,577	51,684
Other Supply costs	10,046	19,834
Cleaning costs	-	3,051
TM teaching costs	19,475	13,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,233,660	1,117,526
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### 12 STAFF COSTS (continued)

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

##### *Charitable Activities*

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teachers	14	12
Administration and support (including Teaching Assistants)	17	15
Management	3	3
	—	—
	34	30
	—	—

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum (including taxable benefits but excluding employers' pension contributions) during the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022 : none).

#### 13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION & EXPENSES

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

L Edwards (principal and trustee):	£45,000 - £50,000 (2022: £45,000 - £50,000)
M Ingram (Head of Cbe, Secondary and trustee):	£25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)
L Walters (Deputy Head and trustee):	£40,000 - £45,000 (2022: £35,000 - £40,000)
L Gaskell (Deputy Head (Primary) and trustee)	£40,000 - £45,000 (2022: £35,000 - £40,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to the trustees (2022: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

#### 14 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £681 (2022: £681).

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance costs.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Computer Equipment & Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2022	891,030	131,041	300,391	1,322,462
Additions	-	10,523	4,597	15,120
At 31 August 2023	<u>891,030</u>	<u>141,564</u>	<u>304,988</u>	<u>1,337,582</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	167,684	129,563	292,369	589,616
Charged in year	13,035	3,924	9,372	26,331
At 31 August 2023	<u>180,719</u>	<u>133,487</u>	<u>301,741</u>	<u>615,947</u>
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 1 September 2022	723,346	1,478	8,022	732,846
At 31 August 2023	<u>710,311</u>	<u>8,077</u>	<u>3,247</u>	<u>721,635</u>

**16 DEBTORS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Debtors	2,711	5,554
Other Debtors	9,206	7,793
Prepayments and accrued income	41,966	12,705
	<u>53,883</u>	<u>26,052</u>

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	55,851	12
Other creditors	64,531	32,221
Accruals	7,787	7,875
Deferred income	6,050	6,880
	<u>134,219</u>	<u>46,988</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2023

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR (continued)**

<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income at 1 September 2022	6,880	25,949
Resources deferred in the year	6,050	6,880
Transferred to Capital Grants	(6,880)	-
Amounts released from previous year	-	(25,949)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deferred Income at 31 August 2023	£6,050	£6,880
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**18 FUNDS**

	<b>Balance 1 September 2022</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Gains losses and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	73,556	1,322,628	1,582,505	15,145	28,824
Other Government Grant	-	80,413	80,413	-	-
Edna Linell – TM Teaching	23,570	12,410	19,475	-	16,505
Erasmus/Europe Project	1,090	-	-	-	1,090
Chromebooks/Photography	11,229	5,077	16,306	-	-
Duke of Edinburgh	288	2,579	1,733	-	1,134
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>109,733</b>	<b>1,423,107</b>	<b>1,500,432</b>	<b>15,145</b>	<b>47,553</b>
<b>Restricted general funds before Pension Reserve</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	109,733	1,423,107	1,500,432	15,145	47,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfES capital grants	712,770	28,906	-	(15,145)	726,531
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	822,503	1,452,013	1,500,432	-	774,084
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	141,984	40,529	38,497	-	144,016
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	964,487	1,492,542	1,538,929	-	918,100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**18 FUNDS (continued)**

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust is subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023. Note 2 discloses whether the limit was exceeded.
- (ii) Other Government Grant has been received from the Local Authority to provide individual pupil funding for SEN.
- (iii) Edna Linell Fund has the specific purpose of providing the funding to pay for the costs of teaching TM and Consciousness Based Education.
- (iv) Erasmus/Europe Project is a European Scheme set up to research the impact of TM and Consciousness Based Education in Schools to reduce radicalisation and other social problems.
- (v) A Nursery Fund has been set up for donations for the purpose of creating a new nursery for the School.
- (vi) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants. The grant is amortised over the useful economic life of the related assets on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy, the amount of £15,145 has been transferred between funds for this year.

The trust is carrying a net surplus of £47,553 on restricted funds (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) plus the balance of £144,016 on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2023.

**19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed asset Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	721,635	721,635
Current assets	278,235	47,553	4,896	330,684
Current Liabilities	(134,219)	-	-	(134,219)
	<u>144,016</u>	<u>47,553</u>	<u>726,531</u>	<u>918,100</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2023

**20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The academy trust has no large future capital commitments planned at present.

**21 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

**Operating Leases**

At 31 August 2023 the academy trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Expiring within two to five years inclusive	-	-
Expiring in over five years-	-	-
	_____	_____
	-	-
	_____	_____

**22 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net (expenditure)/income	(46,387)	7,527
Depreciation (note 15)	26,331	26,296
Interest receivable (note 5)	(640)	(932)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,831)	42,298
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	87,231	(18,118)
	_____	_____
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	38,704	57,071
	_____	_____

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2023

**23 RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING FINANCE**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest received	640	932
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of Finance</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>932</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**24 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	15,120	7,594
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial Investment	15,120	7,594
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>August</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>2023</b>
			<b>£</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	252,577	24,224	276,801
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	252,577	24,224	276,801
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**26 MEMBERS LIABILITY**

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £34,236 (2022 - £14,873) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

##### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

###### **Introduction**

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

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

###### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates are 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration levy). This is expected to rise to 28.68% with effect from 1 April 2024.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

##### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)**

- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £40,000 million.
- The SCAPE rate, set by HMT is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI. Assumed real rate of return of 2.4% in excess of prices and 1.8% below earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 4.2%.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £109,204 (2022 - £109,886).

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

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

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2023

#### 27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £80,310 (2022 - £85,709), of which employer's contributions totalled £62,301 (2022 - £68,797) and the employees' contributions totalled £18,009 (2022 - £16,912). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.7 percent for employers and range from 5.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department of Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

##### PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.3%	4.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.8%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		
-Maximum Cash	50.0%	50.0%
-3/80ths Cash	50.0%	50.0%

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (continued)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age [65] are:

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	22.3
Females	23.4	25.0
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.2	23.7
Females	25.2	26.8

Sensitivity analysis shows how the measurement of the schemes liabilities would be affected by changes in the relevant assumptions.

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
	£000	£000
<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>		
Discount Rate +0.1%	(15)	(18)
CPI rate +0.1%	15	19
Mortality assumption – 1-year increase	15	17
Pay growth +0.1%	15	-

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2023</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2022</b>
Equities	455,000	401,000
Other Bonds	4,000	37,000
Property	89,000	92,000
Cash/Liquidity	6,000	14,000
Other	<u>386,000</u>	<u>304,000</u>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b><u>£940,000</u></b>	<b><u>848,000</u></b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £17,000 (2022: £54,000)

**AMOUNTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	-	(140,000)
Total operating charge	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,000)</u>

**Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)**

Expected return on pension scheme assets	-	13,000
Interest on pension liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
<b>Pension finance</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,000)</u>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities, to the extent that there is a deficit in the Scheme. If the Scheme is in surplus, the Trustees will consider the position at each year end. Currently the Trustees consider that the uncertain economic climate means that it would be imprudent to recognise the surplus in the Financial Statements. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a gain of £202,000 (2022: £202,000).

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2023

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**Movements in the present value of defined benefit  
Obligations were as follows**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September 2022</b>	834,000	1,180,000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	86,000	140,000
Interest cost	36,000	20,000
Employee contributions	19,000	17,000
Past Service Cost (gain)	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(136,000)	(546,000)
Benefits/Transfers Paid	(11,000)	23,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>828,000</b>	<b>834,000</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Movements in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	848,000	690,000
Interest Income	38,000	13,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(19,000)	43,000
Administration Expenses	(2,000)	(2,000)
Employer contributions	67,000	64,000
Employee contributions	19,000	17,000
Benefits Paid	(11,000)	23,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	<u>940,000</u>	<u>848,000</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus in Scheme at 31 August 2023	112,000	14,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. Any transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulation and normal procurement procedures.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

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# Accounts

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**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

*Company Limited by Guarantee*  
*Registration Number: 1902341 (England and Wales)*  
*Charity Registration Number: 517958*

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **CONTENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 – 2
Trustees' Report	3 - 11
Governance Statement	12 - 20
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	21
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	23 - 24
Independent Auditor's Report on Regularity	25 - 26
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	27 - 28
Balance Sheet	29
Cash Flow Statement	30
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating:	
Statement of Accounting Policies	31 - 35
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	36 – 53

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the year ended 31 August 2022

Governors (Trustees)

\* = members of the Finance Committee

J Bowler	Resigned 26 September 2021
A O'Neill	
C Latham	Appointed 1 September 2022
C Winteringham	
G Evans	
I Birnbaum* (Chair)	
J Duckett	
J Lees	Appointed 1 September 2022
L Gaskell	Appointed 31 January 2022
L Edwards*	
L Walters	
L Andrews	Appointed 1 November 2022
M Ingham	
R Buswell*	
R Marriott	Appointed 31 January 2022
L Wilkinson	Retired 31 August 2022
P Duckworth	Retired 31 August 2022
J A Smalley	
R Trandafoiu	Retired 31 October 2022

Secretary	P Mitchell	Retired 31/8/2022
	P Magee	Appointed 1/9/2022

#### Senior managers

Principal/Accounting Officer	L Edwards*	
Deputy Head - Secondary	L Walters	
Deputy Head - Primary	L Gaskell	
Director of Finance and Administration	P Mitchell*	Retired 31/8/2022
	P Magee*	Appointed 1/9/2022

Registered Office  
Cobbs Brow Lane  
Lathom  
L40 6JJ  
Tel: 01695 729912

Company Registration Number 1902341 (England and Wales)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

Auditors	JVSA Ltd Chartered Accountants Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park 48 Southport Road Ormskirk L39 1QR
Bankers	Lloyds PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT  Barclays Bank 265-267 Lord Street Southport PR8 1PD
Solicitors	Napthens Solicitors 7 Winckley Square Preston Lancashire PR1 3JD

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Constitution**

The School is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 1902341). The Academy Trust's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the School together with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Education. Members of the Academy Trust comprise of the signatories to the memorandum, up to 3 persons who may be appointed by Maharishi Foundation and 1 person who may be appointed by the Secretary of State, the Chair of Governors and others whom existing members may unanimously appoint. The articles of association require the members of the Academy Trust to appoint at least three governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs and management of the School.

### **Members' liability**

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

### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 for governors' liability on any one occurrence.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Maharishi School Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 16 known as Consciousness-based Education.

### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The governors who were in office at 31 August 2021 and served throughout the year are listed on page 1. During the year under review the governors held 6 meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide information on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors will be given a tour of the School, including the chance to meet with staff and students.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees continued**

All governors are provided with access to copies of our policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors. As the number of new governors a year is limited, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

Company law requires the governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, the governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 governors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The governors confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as governors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Academy Trust's auditors are aware of that information. The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Academy Trust's website.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The structure consists of two levels: The Governors and The Senior Managers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The next layer is the Senior Managers, these are the Head teacher, two Deputy Heads and the Director of Finance and Administration. These managers control the School at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Governor.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Risk Management**

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, child protection, health and safety, data protection, relationships and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, security of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover through the DfE RPA scheme. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

During the last year the governors have been appraised of and approved the various measures taken to keep the school Covid-secure, and are satisfied the school has followed government guidelines and done the best it can under difficult circumstances to safeguard pupils, staff and parents.

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control**

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance, that:-

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control continued**

The governors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed J Deegan as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems on a termly basis. As of December 2019 the RO has also assessed the school's proposed actions against risks the school has identified in the Risk Register. The Internal Audit Committee which is a sub-group of the Finance Committee, holds termly meetings to review the Responsible Officer's reports and make recommendations accordingly.

The Responsible Officer is required to report to the Governing Body, via the Internal Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. These arrangements provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

#### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The main objectives of the School during the year ended 31 August 2022 are summarised below:

- to maintain the primacy of Consciousness-based Education as the unique educational strategy;
- to follow all government guidance and employ relevant safety strategies to ensure a Covid- secure environment for all school users;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of appropriate resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the School by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

#### **Public Benefit**

One of Maharishi Free School's guiding principles is "The world is my family".

We recognise the unity of every individual with every aspect of the world, not only other people, but the whole environment. A practical expression of this is the fundraising of various types our pupils undertake for those in need, both at home and around the world. Although the lockdown interrupted normal fundraising activities, in the last year the school has raised money for BBC Children in Need and in conjunction with the school fundraising committee held a successful Summer Fair at nearby Newburgh Sports Club.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Public Benefit continued**

During the Covid pandemic, school staff and parents/carers contributed to helping local families struggling to buy food, and has advertised local companies, some connected to the school, who are also offering help with meals. This has continued through the past year.

The school is also licenced to operate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and often has the highest proportion of involved pupils in the region. Sufficient time and resource is allowed for pupils to work towards both Bronze and Silver awards. The Duke of Edinburgh award includes the requirement of participants to undertake a volunteering activity.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit by seeking to promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise. In support of this Maharishi School provides its highly beneficial system of Consciousness-based Education to as many children as possible within the physical constraints of the current buildings. Despite this the school is often unable to satisfy demand for places, both locally and beyond. As a result, during the last year the Governing Body has actively considered increasing class sizes from 18 to 20. It has been established that this would be possible with minor adjustments in some classrooms. The school also actively supports parents in learning the practical element of Consciousness-based Education, the Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique by procuring funds for this purpose.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The School is in its eleventh year of operation as a Free School and continues to attract students for all year groups. Total students at the year ended on 31st August 2021 numbered 216.

As with everywhere else, the school's year has largely been dominated by the Covid-9 pandemic and the resulting restrictions again.

External assessments returned in 2022 for the first time since 2019.

Pupils achieved well in KS2 SATs with either comparable (writing) or above (reading and maths) pass rates compared with the national figures:

- In reading 83% of pupils passed compared with 74% nationally based on 2022 estimate\*.
- In writing, 67% of pupils passed compared with 69% nationally\*.
- In maths, 78% of children passed compared with 71% nationally\*

Progress measures in reading and maths are well within the confidence intervals:

- Reading +0.6 (Confidence Interval -2.3 to 3.5)

- Maths +0.1 (Confidence Interval -2.6 to 2.8)
- Writing (TBC in December)

The school made use of funding available for 'School-led Tutoring' enabling primary phase pupils to access regular intervention sessions in reading, writing and maths throughout the spring and summer terms.

Pupils achieved good results across a broad range of subjects at GCSE level:

- The Attainment 8 score was 54, compared to a national average of 53 .
- The % of pupils receiving grade 5+ in both English and maths was 53% compared to a national average of 44%.
- The % of pupils receiving grade 4+ in both English and maths is 71% compared to a national average of 65%.
- The % of pupils receiving grade 5+ in their Ebacc subjects is 41% compared to a national average of only 19%.
- Ebacc entry was 94% compared with a national average of 40%.
- Ebacc points were 5.28 compared with a national average of 4.58.
- The estimated Progress 8 score is -0.16 (which is in the statistical range of the national average).

There was less disruption to secondary pupils' education during the pandemic as remote teaching was in place from the very beginning of the first school closure. Therefore, School-led Tutoring funding was not used at the secondary phase.

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the School operates a programme of standardised testing of ability, attainment and attitude including Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS), Progress Test in Maths (PiM), Progress Test in English (PiE) and Progress Test in Science (PiS) scores, and Cognitive Ability Testing (CAT). Peer and Governor observation of lessons takes place and the school organises visits by external inspectors. Staff maintain contacts with other local schools to share and learn successful practice. Maharishi School continues to be part of the "Shares" cluster of local schools in which training, information and practice experience are shared to benefit all cluster members equally.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators**

Maharishi School is of the view that it is difficult to find comparable schools against which to be benchmarked, which has been reinforced by reviewing the comparator schools available from the DfE's own benchmarking tool. We have compared our financial performance against the Department for Education's benchmarking tool and the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool SRMSAT, the checklist data from which is submitted to the ESFA on the school, which used 2019/20 data. This document states the comparison is with other through schools, which experience indicates tend to be academies. The benchmarking tool has been utilised with three different routes of comparison, for which a comprehensive summary report was then produced. This method enabled comparisons with different schools according to the comparison criteria, although some appeared in more than one route group. It was found that the comparator schools were not particularly good matches for Maharishi School for varying reasons. Also, the reporting methodologies for some schools differed from our school, in some cases producing unrealistic figures against which to contrast our own. The Kreston Academies Benchmarking Report is also reviewed.

Environmentally Maharishi Secondary School is fortunate to occupy a building originally constructed using natural materials wherever practicable, including rammed earth walls. This building was converted for the School's conversion to Free School Status, under the auspices of the Department for Education, to the latest environmental performance standards, including a new roof. The subsequent addition of CCTV cameras and a higher fence have significantly improved the security and Safeguarding provision of the Secondary site. There is a longer term plan to upgrade the Primary School site to achieve more energy efficient buildings. From February 2016, the reception class and other functions occupied a new, stand-alone classroom, constructed largely of timber products and to the highest energy-efficiency standards then current.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators continued**

The school continues to find that the introduction of Chromebooks operating through the Google Education platform and operating via Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced the learning experience for pupils and maximised the amount of teaching time within lessons. During periods of extended pupil absence, the school makes extensive use of online platforms and teaching in order that students remain up to date with their learning.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The school Finance Committee regularly reviews the Trust's financial status, including risks and potential forecast pressures and work towards ending each year with a balanced budget in order to maintain sufficient reserves. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the school from potential risks and are also subject to review. During the year in question, the school had projected a deficit, largely driven by a lower pupil roll the previous year and increasing teaching staff salaries to work towards the latest STRB recommendations. This deficit is expected to have decreased slightly in cash terms at year end.

The year in question is the 9th year in which the school has participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme, from which the Actuaries report indicates a scheme surplus of £14,000. This surplus is a result of the general position of the Lancashire LGPS.

##### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Outlined below are the principal risks that may affect the Maharishi School Trust.

- 1 Maharishi School Trust has considerable reliance on government funding through the ESFA. In 2021/22, approximately 95% (2020/21: 96%) of the School's income was publicly funded and this requirement is expected to continue at approximately this level.

This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- 2 By closely monitoring the evolving education agenda and the changes outlined by the Department for Education
- 3 By closely monitoring the School's cost base and ensure value for money is obtained across all expenditures.
- 4 By working to maintain and increase pupil numbers to the maximum possible roll in order to receive the maximum achievable ESFA funding

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Reserves policy**

The governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### **Financial position**

The School held fund balances at 31 August 2022 of £964,487 (2021 - £466,960) comprising £822,503 (2021 - £326,072) of restricted funds and £141,984 (2021 - £140,888) of unrestricted general funds.

#### **Investment Policy**

During the financial year Maharishi School Trust Ltd had a cash balance of £252,577, and the governing body has renewed the placing of various sums in deposit accounts to maximise income from its balances. The objective of the academy is to ensure that sufficient funds are available at short or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements, while earning an acceptable rate of return without undue risk.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The school will continue working to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels, and will also maintain its recruitment up to the maximum capacity of our buildings. The School has significantly upgraded its built environment in recent years and is working to continue this work, to create improved conditions for both pupil learning and staff working.

#### **AUDITORS**

The auditors, JVSA Ltd, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The report of the governors was approved by the governors on 15 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,  
Chairman**

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Maharishi School Trust Limited and the Secretary of State of Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statements of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year, utilising Google Meet for some remote meetings following the continuation of the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions during the year.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum (Chair)	6	6
L Edwards (Principal)	6	6
G Evans	4	6
L Walters	6	6
M Ingram	6	6
R Buswell	4	6
L Wilkinson	4	6
J Smalley	5	6
P Duckworth	2	6
C Winteringham	4	6
A O'Neill	6	6
J Duckett	6	6
R Trandafoiu	6	6
L Gaskell	3	3
R Marriott	3	3
<b>Non Trustee</b>		
P Mitchell (Clerk)	6	6

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Governance continued**

##### **Finance Committee**

The committee assists the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the School's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Finance Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Consider the financial aspects of particular matters specifically referred to the committee.
2. Consider the School's indicative budget funding obtained from the Ready Reckoner and to assess its implications for the School in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager in advance of the financial year involved, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
3. Consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the School budget, at the start of each financial year, (1st September – 31st August.)
4. Contribute to the evolution of the School's Development Plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager within the School's stated and agreed aims and objectives.
5. Receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
6. Agree limits of delegation and virements.
7. Liaise with and receive reports from other Governing Body committees as appropriate and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
8. Monitor and review income and expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the School and with the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Education and Skills Funding Agency or Department for Education, including the school's own internal financial regulations, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
9. Monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Governance continued**

10. Prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Governing Body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act requirements.
11. Receive Auditors and Responsible Officers reports and to recommend to Governing Body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
12. Recommend to the Governing Body the appointment or reappointment of the Trust's auditors.
13. Develop and recommend to the Governing Body policies on charging, lettings and contracts that are in accordance with Financial Regulations and advise governors on the financial implications of adopting certain policies.
14. Additional items as required/agreed.

#### **Premises**

1. Follow the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the Department for Education and other relevant statutory authorities concerning the upkeep of buildings and land.
2. Ensure that the conditions of the premises and grounds are monitored and receive regular reports.
3. Ensure that resources are available to implement repair and maintenance as required and in a timely manner.
4. Prepare a statement of priorities for maintenance and development (Asset Management Plan.)
5. Receive regular reports on the general maintenance of the premises and grounds and inform the Governing Body of the effectiveness of any planned maintenance programmes/Asset Management Plan.
6. Approve the budget allocation for maintenance, repairs and redecoration.
7. Oversee the preparation, implementation and monitoring of premises-related contracts.
8. Prepare a letting policy for the approval of the Governing Body and to monitor and advise the Governing Body on the use of the school by outside bodies.
9. Consider and advise the Governing Body on matters relating to the efficient and effective use of the premises and grounds.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### Governance continued

10. Draft and review the Academy's Disaster Recovery Plan and make recommendations to the Governing Body.
11. Be aware of the extent of insurance cover on premises and equipment and review annually.
12. Additional items as required/agreed.

Attendance at finance committee meetings in the year was as follows

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
I Birnbaum	6	6
L Edwards	6	6
R Buswell	5	6
<b>Non-Trustees</b>		
J Scott	5	6
P Mitchell	6	6
M Wilkinson	5	6

#### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guidance in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021-22 regarding value for money statements published by the Education Funding Standards Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer has set out below how she has ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

#### Maharishi School 2021-22 Value for Money statement

This statement is to show that Maharishi School Trust's use of public assets and funds has provided good value for money during the year, and to identify any opportunities for potential improvement, particularly in respect of the following:

- the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources, for example to produce better educational results;
- the avoidance of waste and extravagance;

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

- the prudent and economical administration of the organisation;
- the establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, (including sound internal spending controls, keeping up-to-date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting); and
- ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.

Maharishi School Trust opened as a Free School in September 2011 with a capital cost to the Department for Education of under £1million, compared to the average premises cost of setting up a Free School published by the National Audit Office of £6.6million. The school was originally conceived on the basis of 15 pupils per class but, due to high levels of demand, we have increased class sizes to 18 by stages, and increasing this to 20 pupils per class from 2021-22. The fact of smaller class sizes ensures that teachers can devote more time to individual pupils and their particular requirements. Maharishi School Trust, in keeping with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, has all the relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Trust is properly run and provides value for money.

All matters relating to finance are referred to the Finance Committee, which is acutely aware of the Trust's limited budget and the pressures on it. They have actively questioned expenditure proposals, challenged variances, advised on strategy and expressed their reporting requirements. When satisfied, the Finance Committee have then made appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body. Also, as required, the school has the function of an internal audit in the form of an Internal Audit Committee, as allowed due to the Trusts' size. As required in the Academies Trust Handbook, the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer is part of this committee. Maharishi School continues to utilise an independent Responsible Officer, who reviews the financial operations, compliance and risks, including the Risk Register and the school's risk management proposals, etcetera on a termly basis. Maharishi School's Responsible Officer is a chartered accountant, whose termly reports inform the deliberations of the Audit Committee and are submitted to the Governing Body.

These bodies are subject to their own Terms of Reference/ Roles and Responsibilities documents and the Finance Committee routinely meets every other month and the Internal Audit every term. Finance meetings take place ten days before Governors' meetings to ensure that the data and topics under discussion are still current. The meeting schedule is designed to accommodate the production of Quarterly finance reports in order that matters are reported and acted upon in a timely manner. Members of the Governing Body are mostly parents of current or past pupils of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body is a former Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services of a London Borough.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

Maharishi School Trust has been audited by the EFSA who have expressed their satisfaction with the financial management and governance of the Trust, including the requisite policies and procedures. These include:

- Draft internal financial regulations: these ensure that the school maintains and develops systems of financial control which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.
- Headteacher and Governing Body responsibilities: this document details the levels of decision making for all aspects of the school.
- Delegated authority table: this details the levels of authority for and conditions pertaining to expenditure amounts.
- Continuity plans for each and both school sites: these provide all the information needed to ensure the fastest possible disaster recovery of school operations.
- Risk Register: this lists all perceived potential risks to the school, level of risk and control procedures. Register updates are a Governing Body standing agenda item.
- Whistleblowing policy: this is intended to enable individuals to raise concerns about general malpractice, abuse or wrongdoing at an early stage and in the right way, without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. The policy is designed to encourage and enable individuals to raise concerns within the school or, if necessary, externally rather than to overlook a problem. (This enables any member of staff, pupil, parent or member of the public to notify the relevant authority of suspected wrongdoing and ensures investigations are conducted, and if necessary acted upon, impartially and objectively.)

Since the conversion to a Free School the Maharishi School Trust Governing Body has usually approved a balanced budget with a small GAG funding carry forward within recommended limits. The outturn figure for 2021/22 is better than that budgeted at £7,527 (Surplus) before the pension deficit release of £490,000, which is outside the school's control, is applied. Maharishi School holds a healthy balance of reserves, which has comfortably covered any past shortfalls. The Trust has submitted statutory financial reports, including Audited Accounts, ESFA Accounts Return and ESFA Budget Forecast Return and BFR Outturns which have satisfied the ESFA Auditors (Deloitte). The Trust has routinely compared its financial performance with the Kreston (chartered accountants) Academies Benchmark Reports and the Department for Education/Education and Skills Funding Agency Benchmarking systems. In the last two years this has been the online benchmarking tool, using three different criteria. (see Key Performance Indicators, page 9). We are satisfied with our performance compared to Academy Trusts generally, many of which have struggled financially in recent years, despite the diseconomies of scale due to our smaller class sizes and resultant per class funding, especially staff pupil ratio.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

This demonstrates a high level of responsibility in the use of the Trust's funds. The Trust makes every effort to gain the maximum value in procurement of services and products. We are confident the Trust does very well at obtaining good value overall in procurement due to the ongoing review of suppliers and their prices by the finance and admin teams. This has included joining the DfE RPA school insurance scheme in September 2019, which represented a further saving for the school. In terms of the educational and societal outcomes of Maharishi School we can demonstrate that the resources expended are offering exceptional value for money.

Maharishi School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2017 resulting in a "Good" report overall with Outstanding in Personal Development and Welfare. The school is pleased with the report, but is not complacent and is already acting on the advice for areas to be developed. This has included extending the Reception class' enclosed play area, completely resurfacing the whole area and installing outdoor play equipment. Awnings for the Reception area and other ground floor classrooms have been installed during the year in question.

Development of full potential is nurtured at Maharishi School, as indicated by other pupil achievements. In addition to statutory testing Maharishi School utilises standardised ability, attainment, and attitude testing to regularly monitor pupil abilities and social development. Extracurricular activities are encouraged and facilitated, including the Duke of Edinburgh award. This introduction has been assisted by the school fundraising group, who also assist, for example, in school trip funding, which allows us to offer a full range of educational visits across the whole school, including residential and foreign trips. Other after-hours offerings during the year included Photography GCSE.

Staff recruitment and deployment has been undertaken with care (using the practices recommended by 'Safer Recruitment'), and is regularly reviewed, to obtain the most beneficial outcomes for pupils. This has been particularly the case in the Primary phase which underwent planned expansion following becoming a Free School. Here, the allocation of teaching assistants and subject specialists reflects the specific requirements of classes as a whole and of individual pupils, including those requiring degrees of one-to-one support. As planned, the school now provides more targeted, specific literacy and numeracy support in both phases. During the last year there has been staff recruitment in both phases following staff emigration to further enhance the school's offering.

Maharishi School Trust started as a Free School with a good track record in both educational and pastoral provision and financial management, and continues that ethos to the present. We always proactively seek the best value in the use of our funds and will continue to refine our approach to improve on past performance. The development of our pupils is of paramount importance to us and we will continue to do whatever we can to maximise the value to them of our funding.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Maharishi School Trust for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the School Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The Risk and Control Framework**

The school's trust system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:  
Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;

#### **Governance**

- Regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management risks.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **Governance continued**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- Not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed J Deegan, an accountant, as responsible officer (RO) to inform the audit committee, a sub-committee of the finance committee on any failures of the audit function that arise during her review of the systems and controls;

The Reporting Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, the Responsible Officer reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the responsible officer and peer review;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and general purposes committee and a plan to address weaknesses (if relevant) and ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

**I Birnbaum**  
**Chair of Trustees**

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of Maharishi School Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Education and Skills Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds of the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

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

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**  
**15 December 2022**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who act as governors of Maharishi School Trust Limited and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

**Signed**

**I Birnbaum  
Chair of Trustees**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2022**

We have audited the financial statements of Maharishi School Trust Limited for the year ended 31 August 2022 on pages 27 to 53, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 35.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The responsibilities of the directors 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) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees on page 22.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees Annual Report is not consistent with those financial statements, if the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with these accounting records and returns, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2022**

#### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **OPINION**

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; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.
- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the year for which the financial statements have been prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park  
48 Southport Road  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L39 1QR

15 December 2022

**C SALES (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AUTHORITY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Maharishi School Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Maharishi School Trust's accounting officer and the reporting auditor**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Maharishi School Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State Education dated 9 August 2011, the Deed of Variation dated 29 August 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Review expense claims and any unusual transactions ensuring the expenditure does not contravene the funding agreement .
- Review of work undertaken and conclusions reached by Accounting Officer and the Responsible Individual throughout the year ensuring internal control procedures have been implemented.
- Review the risk register and representations given to trustees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities including declarations of external interests.
- All minutes of committee meetings were reviewed.

#### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects of the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**C Sales**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

**15 December 2022**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
<i>Incoming Resources from generating funds</i>						
Voluntary Income	3	5,353	31,026	-	36,379	34,859
Activities for Generating funds	4	33,194	-	-	33,194	16,843
Investment Income	5	932	-	-	932	16
<i>Incoming Resources from charitable activities</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	6	_____	<u>1,310,263</u>	<u>6,818</u>	<u>1,317,081</u>	<u>1,213,282</u>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>39,479</u>	<u>1,341,289</u>	<u>6,818</u>	<u>1,387,586</u>	<u>£1,265,000</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
<i>Costs of generating</i>						
Voluntary income	9	-	16,616	-	16,616	2,732
Fundraising Trading	8	23,625	13,274	-	36,899	27,883
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Academy's Educational Operations	10	14,758	1,250,274	-	1,265,032	1,260,816
Governance costs	11	_____	<u>61,512</u>	_____	<u>61,512</u>	<u>55,087</u>
Total resources Expended	7	<u>38,383</u>	<u>1,341,676</u>	_____	<u>1,380,059</u>	<u>1,346,518</u>
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources Before transfers		<u>1,096</u>	<u>(387)</u>	<u>6,818</u>	<u>7,527</u>	<u>(81,518)</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources</b>						
<b>Before transfers</b>		1,096	(387)	6,818	7,527	(81,518)
Gross transfers						
Between funds	19	-	<u>9,641</u>	<u>(9,641)</u>	-	-
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>						
<b>For the year</b>		<b>1,096</b>	<b>9,254</b>	<b>(2,823)</b>	<b>7,527</b>	<b>(81,518)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial	19,28	-	<b>490,000</b>	-	<b>490,000</b>	<u>(48,000)</u>
<b>Net movement</b>						
<b>In funds</b>		1,096	499,254	(2,823)	497,527	(129,518)
Total funds brought forward	19	<u>140,888</u>	<u>(389,521)</u>	<u>715,593</u>	<u>466,960</u>	<u>596,478</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August		<u>141,984</u>	<u>109,733</u>	<u>712,770</u>	<u>964,487</u>	<u>466,960</u>

All of the School's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods. A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		732,846		751,548
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	26,052		68,350	
Cash at bank and in hand		252,577		202,168	
		<u>278,629</u>		<u>270,518</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(46,988)		(65,106)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>231,641</u>	<u>205,412</u>	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>964,487</u>	<u>956,960</u>	
Pension scheme liability	27		-	(490,000)	
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>964,487</u>	<u>466,960</u>	
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted income funds</b>					
. Fixed asset fund	18		712,770		715,593
. General fund	18		109,733		100,479
. Pension reserve	18		-		(490,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>822,503</u>		<u>326,072</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
. General fund	18		141,984		140,888
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>964,487</u>		<u>466,960</u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 53 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issued on [ ] December 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,**  
**Chairman**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2022</b> £	<b>2021</b> £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	22	57,071	(51,286)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	23	932	16
Capital expenditure	24	(7,594)	(34,615)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the year	25	<u>50,409</u>	<u>(85,885)</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at 1 September 2021		202,168	288,053
Net funds at 31 August 2022		<u>252,577</u>	<u>202,168</u>

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Maharishi School Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

##### **Going Concern**

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **Incoming resources**

###### **Grants receivable**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which it is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

###### **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### **Interest receivable**

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

- **Other Income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **Donated Service and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy trust's policies.

##### **Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Costs of Generating Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations.

- **Governance Costs**

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £7,594 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy.

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

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Freehold buildings                  | 1%-25% Straight Line |
| ○ Fixtures, fittings and equipment    | 25% Straight Line    |
| ○ ICT equipment                       | 33% Straight Line    |
| ○ Minibus (included within equipment) | 25% Straight Line    |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

##### Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on an actual basis over the lease term.

##### Taxation

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **Pension Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in Note 27, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contributions scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

##### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
<b>2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)</b>		
<b>a. Results and Carry Forward for the Year</b>		
<b>GAG brought forward from last year</b>	78,712	103,755
GAG allocation for current year	1,265,899	1,205,113
<b>Total GAG available to spend</b>	<b>1,344,611</b>	<b>1,308,868</b>
Recurrent expenditure from GAG	1,271,055	1,230,186
<b>GAG carried forward to next year</b>	<u>73,556</u>	<u>78,712</u>
Maximum permitted GAG carry forward at end of current year [12%] of allocation for current year)	151,908	144,614
<b>GAG to surrender to DfES</b>	<b>-78,342</b>	<b>-65,902</b>

(12% rule breached if result is positive)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2022 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes. The academy trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2022.

**3 VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Private sponsorship and donations</b>				
Miscellaneous donations	4,703	-	4,703	11,160
Duke of Edinburgh	-	2,159	2,159	2,120
Edna Linnell Legacy	-	23,173	23,173	15,331
Miscellaneous Income	650	5,694	6,344	6,248
	<u>5,353</u>	<u>31,026</u>	<u>36,379</u>	<u>34,859</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**4 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fundraising	7,617	-	7,617	4,874
Pupil Trips	7,656	-	7,656	727
Uniform Sale	274	-	274	108
Out of Hours Income	14,984	-	14,984	9,806
Catering Income	1,010	-	1,010	885
Bus Transfer Income	1,404	-	1,404	-
Recipe Book	<u>249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>443</u>
	<u>33,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,194</u>	<u>16,843</u>

**5 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Bank Interest	<u>932</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>932</u>	<u>16</u>

**6 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	1,265,899	1,265,899	1,205,113
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,265,899</u>	<u>1,265,899</u>	<u>1,205,113</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
EHC	-	44,364	44,364	8,169
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,310,263</u>	<u>1,310,263</u>	<u>1,213,282</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**7 RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>Non Pay Expenditure</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Premises</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Costs of activities for generating funds	19,833	-	17,066	36,899	27,883
Costs of generating voluntary income Academy's educational operations	-	-	16,616	16,616	2,733
. Direct costs	825,022	14,728	152,026	991,776	924,786
. Allocated support costs	216,352	32,752	24,152	273,256	336,030
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,061,207	47,480	209,860	1,318,547	1,291,432
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Governance costs including allocated support costs	43,287	-	18,225	61,512	55,087
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,104,494	47,480	228,085	1,380,059	1,346,519
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Incoming /outgoing resources for the year  
Include:**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fees payable to auditor - audit	5,100	4,750
- other services	3,113	3,538
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£8,213	£8,288
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Catering	3,638	10,393	14,031	9,846
Uniforms	154	-	154	138
Marketing	-	2,881	2,881	-
Support staff costs	19,833	-	19,833	17,899
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,625	13,274	36,899	27,883
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**9 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
TM Teaching	-	13,034	13,034	1,900
Duke of Edinburgh	-	3,582	3,582	832
	-	16,616	16,616	2,732

**10 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS  
*DIRECT COSTS***

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	825,022	825,022	799,606
Depreciation	-	26,296	26,296	27,933
Technology costs	-	23,735	23,735	24,283
Books, apparatus and stationery	-	42,857	42,857	40,917
Examination fees	-	6,305	6,305	4,071
Staff development	-	2,185	2,185	2,217
Educational Visits	5,521	-	5,521	908
Other direct costs	9,237	50,618	59,855	24,852
	14,758	977,018	991,776	924,787
<b><i>ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS</i></b>				
Support staff costs	-	216,352	216,352	273,940
Pupil recruitment and support	-	266	266	4,443
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	12,156	12,156	17,140
Cleaning	-	12,187	12,187	10,080
Rates	-	7,003	7,003	4,767
Heat and light	-	7,770	7,770	10,737
Insurance	-	4,081	4,081	4,449
Telephone	-	2,359	2,359	1,760
Transport	-	4,719	4,719	1,563
Technology costs	-	805	805	68
Bank charges	-	(202)	(202)	317
Other support costs	-	5,760	5,760	6,765
	-	273,256	273,256	336,029
<b>ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b><u>14,758</u></b>	<b><u>1,250,274</u></b>	<b><u>1,265,032</u></b>	<b><u>1,260,816</u></b>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**11 GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Legal and professional fees	-	10,012	10,012	4,442
Auditor's remuneration				
. Audit of financial statements	-	5,100	5,100	4,750
. Other audit costs	-	3,113	3,113	3,538
Support Staff Costs	-	43,287	43,287	42,357
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	61,512	61,512	55,087
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs comprise:

	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Wages and salaries	801,904	763,388
Social security costs	52,074	58,229
Other pension costs	175,947	229,993
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,029,925	1,051,610
Supply teacher costs	51,684	64,292
Other Supply costs	19,834	17,899
Cleaning costs	3,051	-
TM teaching costs	13,032	1,900
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,117,526	1,135,701
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 12 STAFF COSTS (continued)

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2022 expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

##### *Charitable Activities*

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	18	17
Administration and support (including Teaching Assistants)	31	19
Management	3	3
	—	—
	52	39
	—	—

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum (including taxable benefits but excluding employers' pension contributions) during the year ended 31 August 2022. (No employees earned more than £60,000-31 August 2021).

#### 13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION & EXPENSES

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

L Edwards (principal and trustee):	£45,000 - £50,000 (2021: £45,000 - £50,000)
M Ingram (Head of Cbe, Secondary and trustee):	£25,000 - £30,000 (2021: £25,000 - £30,000)
L Walters (Deputy Head and trustee):	£35,000 - £40,000 (2021: £35,000 - £40,000)
H Coplestone	£25,000 - £33,000 (2021: £25,000 - £30,000)
L Gaskell (Deputy Head (Primary) and trustee)	£38,000 - £40,000 (2021: - )

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to the trustees (2021: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

#### 14 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £681 (2021: £681).

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance costs.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Computer Equipment & Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2021	883,436	131,041	300,391	1,314,868
Additions	7,594	-	-	7,594
At 31 August 2022	891,030	131,041	300,391	1,322,462
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2021	152,956	128,135	282,229	563,320
Charged in year	14,728	1,428	10,140	26,296
At 31 August 2022	167,684	129,563	292,369	589,616
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 1 September 2021	730,480	2,906	18,162	751,548
At 31 August 2022	723,346	1,478	8,022	732,846

**16 DEBTORS**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Debtors	5,554	5,905
Other Debtors	7,793	42,308
Prepayments and accrued income	12,705	20,137
	26,052	68,350

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	12	25,828
Other creditors	32,221	6,029
Accruals	7,875	7,300
Deferred income	6,880	25,949
	46,988	65,106

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR (continued)**

<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income at 1 September 2021	25,949	27,439
Resources deferred in the year	6,880	25,949
Amounts released from previous year	(25,949)	(27,439)
	<u>6,880</u>	<u>25,949</u>
Deferred Income at 31 August 2022	<u>6,880</u>	<u>25,949</u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Academy Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium booked for the autumn term 2022.

**18 FUNDS**

	<b>Balance 1 September 2021</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Gains losses and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	78,712	1,265,899	(1,280,696)	9,641	73,556
Other Government Grant	-	44,364	(44,364)	-	-
Edna Linell – TM Teaching	13,431	23,173	(13,034)	-	23,570
Erasmus/Europe Project	1,090	-	-	-	1,090
Chromebooks/Photography	5,535	5,694	-	-	11,229
Duke of Edinburgh	1,711	2,159	(3,582)	-	288
	<u>100,479</u>	<u>1,341,289</u>	<u>(1,341,676)</u>	<u>9,641</u>	<u>109,733</u>
<b>Restricted general funds before Pension Reserve</b>	(490,000)	-	-	490,000	-
	<u>(389,521)</u>	<u>1,341,289</u>	<u>(1,341,676)</u>	<u>499,641</u>	<u>109,733</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfES capital grants	715,593	6,818	-	(9,641)	712,770
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>326,072</u>	<u>1,348,107</u>	<u>(1,341,676)</u>	<u>490,000</u>	<u>822,503</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	140,888	39,479	(38,383)	-	141,984
	<u>466,960</u>	<u>1,387,586</u>	<u>(1,380,059)</u>	<u>490,000</u>	<u>964,487</u>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 18 FUNDS (continued)

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust is subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2022. Note 2 discloses whether the limit was exceeded.
- (ii) Other Government Grant has been received from the Local Authority to provide individual pupil funding for SEN.
- (iii) Edna Linell Fund has the specific purpose of providing the funding to pay for the costs of teaching TM and Consciousness Based Education.
- (iv) Erasmus/Europe Project is a European Scheme set up to research the impact of TM and Consciousness Based Education in Schools to reduce radicalisation and other social problems.
- (v) A Nursery Fund has been set up for donations for the purpose of creating a new nursery for the School.
- (vi) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants. The grant is amortised over the useful economic life of the related assets on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy, the amount of £9,641 has been transferred between funds for this year.

The trust is carrying a net surplus of £109,733 on restricted funds (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) plus the balance of £141,984 on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2022.

#### 19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed asset Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tangible fixed assets	20,076	-	712,770	732,846
Current assets	168,896	109,733	-	278,629
Current Liabilities	(49,988)	-	-	(46,988)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	141,984	109,733	712,770	964,487
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The academy trust has no large future capital commitments planned at present.

**21 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

**Operating Leases**

At 31 August 2022 the academy trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Expiring within two to five years inclusive	-	-
Expiring in over five years-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**22 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income/(expenditure)	7,527	(81,518)
Depreciation (note 15)	26,296	27,933
Interest receivable (note 5)	(932)	(16)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	-	60,000
Decrease/(Increase)/decrease in debtors	42,298	(25,578)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(18,118)	(32,107)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	57,071	(51,286)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**23 RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING FINANCE**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest received	932	16
	-----	-----
<b>Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of Finance</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>16</b>
	-----	-----

**24 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	7,594	34,615
	-----	-----
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial Investment	7,594	34,615
	-----	-----

**25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>August</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>2022</b>
			<b>£</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	202,168	50,409	252,577
	-----	-----	-----
	202,168	50,409	252,577
	-----	-----	-----

**26 MEMBERS LIABILITY**

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £14,873 (2021 - £6,028) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 and are included within creditors.

##### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

###### **Introduction**

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

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

###### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration levy)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)**

- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- The SCAPE rate, set by HMT is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. Assumed real rate of return of 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £109,886 (2021 - £112,376).

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

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

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £85,709 (2021 - £72,487), of which employer's contributions totalled £68,797 (2021 - £57,133) and the employees' contributions totalled £16,912 (2021 - £15,354). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.7 percent for employers and range from 5.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department of Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

##### PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3%	1.7%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.8%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		
-Maximum Cash	50.00%	50.00%
-3/80ths Cash	50.00%	50.00%

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (continued)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.3	22.4
Females	25.0	25.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.7	23.9
Females	26.8	26.9

Sensitivity analysis shows how the measurement of the schemes liabilities would be affected by changes in the relevant assumptions.

	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>
	£000	£000
<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>		
Discount Rate +0.1%	(18)	465
CPI rate +0.1%	19	516
Mortality assumption – 1-year increase	17	527
Pay growth +0.1%	-	491

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2022</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2021</b>
Equities	401,000	349,000
Other Bonds	37,000	37,000
Property	92,000	69,000
Cash/Liquidity	14,000	14,000
Other	<u>304,000</u>	<u>221,000</u>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b><u>848,000</u></b>	<b><u>690,000</u></b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £54,000 (2021: £80,000)

**AMOUNTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(140,000)	(108,000)
Total operating charge	<u>(140,000)</u>	<u>(108,000)</u>
<b>Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)</b>		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	13,000	10,000
Interest on pension liabilities	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(17,000)</u>
<b>Pension finance</b>	<b><u>(7,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(7,000)</u></b>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a gain of £202,000 (2021: loss of £288,000).

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2022

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**Movements in the present value of defined benefit Obligations were as follows**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September 2021</b>	1,180,000	923,000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	140,000	108,000
Interest cost	20,000	17,000
Employee contributions	17,000	15,000
Past Service Cost (gain)	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(546,000)	120,000
Benefits/Transfers Paid	23,000	(3,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2022</b>	<b>834,000</b>	<b>1,180,000</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Movements in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	690,000	541,000
Interest Income	13,000	10,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	43,000	72,000
Administration Expenses	(2,000)	(2,000)
Employer contributions	64,000	57,000
Employee contributions	17,000	15,000
Benefits Paid	23,000	(3,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2022</b>	<b><u>848,000</u></b>	<b><u>690,000</u></b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) in Scheme at 31 August 2022	14,000	(490,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. Any transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulation and normal procurement procedures.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

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# Accounts

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**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

*Company Limited by Guarantee*  
*Registration Number: 1902341 (England and Wales)*  
*Charity Registration Number: 517958*

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CONTENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 – 2
Trustees' Report	3 - 11
Governance Statement	12 - 20
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	21
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	23 - 24
Independent Auditor's Report on Regularity	25 - 26
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	27 - 28
Balance Sheet	29
Cash Flow Statement	30
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating:	
Statement of Accounting Policies	31 - 35
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	36 – 53

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### Governors (Trustees)

\* = members of the Finance Committee

G Evans  
I Birnbaum\* (Chairman)  
L Edwards  
H Coplestone (re-appointed 11/09/2020, retired  
31/08/2021)  
L Walters  
M Ingram (re-appointed 06/05/2021)  
L Wilkinson (re-appointed 01/11/2020)  
R Buswell\* (re-appointed 15/10/2021)  
J A Smalley (re-appointed 30/11/2020)  
J Bowler (resigned 26/09/2021)  
P Duckworth (appointed 01/11/2020)  
C Winteringham  
J Duckett (elected 31/10/2020)  
R Trandafoiu (elected 31/10/2021)  
A O'Neill (appointed 05/11/2020)  
V Ross (retired 31/10/20)

#### Secretary

P Mitchell

#### Senior managers

#### Principal/Accounting Officer

L Edwards\*

#### Deputy Head - Secondary

L Walters

#### Deputy Head - Primary

L Gaskell

#### Director of Finance and Administration

P Mitchell\*

#### Registered Office

Cobbs Brow Lane  
Lathom  
L40 6JJ  
Tel: 01695 729912

#### Company Registration Number

1902341 (England and Wales)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS  
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

Auditors	JVSA Ltd Chartered Accountants Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park 48 Southport Road Ormskirk L39 1QR
Bankers	Lloyds PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT  Barclays Bank 265-267 Lord Street Southport PR8 1PD
Solicitors	Napthens Solicitors 7 Winckley Square Preston Lancashire PR1 3JD

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Constitution**

The School is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 1902341). The Academy Trust's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the School together with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Education. Members of the Academy Trust comprise of the signatories to the memorandum, up to 3 persons who may be appointed by Maharishi Foundation and 1 person who may be appointed by the Secretary of State, the Chair of Governors and others whom existing members may unanimously appoint. The articles of association require the members of the Academy Trust to appoint at least three governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs and management of the School.

#### **Members' liability**

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

#### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 for governors' liability on any one occurrence.

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Maharishi School Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 16 known as Consciousness-based Education.

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The governors who were in office at 31 August 2020 and served throughout the year are listed on page 1. During the year under review the governors held 6 meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide information on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors will be given a tour of the School, including the chance to meet with staff and students.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees continued**

All governors are provided with access to copies of our policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors. As the number of new governors a year is limited, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

Company law requires the governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, the governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 governors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The governors confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as governors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Academy Trust's auditors are aware of that information. The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Academy Trust's website.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The structure consists of two levels: The Governors and The Senior Managers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The next layer is the Senior Managers, these are the Head teacher, two Deputy Heads and the Director of Finance and Administration. These managers control the School at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Governor.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Risk Management**

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, child protection, health and safety, data protection, relationships and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, security of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover through the DfE RPA scheme. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

During the last year the governors have been appraised of and approved the various measures taken to keep the school Covid-secure, and are satisfied the school has followed government guidelines and done the best it can under difficult circumstances to safeguard pupils, staff and parents.

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control**

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance, that:-

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control continued**

The governors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed J Deegan as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems on a termly basis. As of December 2019 the RO has also assessed the school's proposed actions against risks the school has identified in the Risk Register. The Internal Audit Committee which is a sub-group of the Finance Committee, holds termly meetings to review the Responsible Officer's reports and make recommendations accordingly.

The Responsible Officer is required to report to the Governing Body, via the Internal Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. These arrangements provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

#### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The main objectives of the School during the year ended 31 August 2021 are summarised below:

- to maintain the primacy of Consciousness-based Education as the unique educational strategy;
- to follow all government guidance and employ relevant safety strategies to ensure a Covid-secure environment for all school users;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of appropriate resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the School by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

#### **Public Benefit**

One of Maharishi Free School's guiding principles is "The world is my family".

We recognise the unity of every individual with every aspect of the world, not only other people, but the whole environment. A practical expression of this is the fundraising of various types our pupils undertake for those in need, both at home and around the world. Although the lockdown interrupted normal fundraising activities, in the last year the school has raised money for BBC Children in Need.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Public Benefit continued**

During the Covid pandemic, school staff and parents/carers have contributed to helping local families struggling to buy food, and has advertised local companies, some connected to the school, who are also offering help with meals.

The school is also licenced to operate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and often has the highest proportion of Involved pupils in the region. Sufficient time and resource is allowed for pupils to work towards both Bronze and Silver awards. The Duke of Edinburgh award includes the requirement of participants to undertake a volunteering activity.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit by seeking to promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise. In support of this Maharishi School provides its highly beneficial system of Consciousness-based Education to as many children as possible within the physical constraints of the current buildings. Despite this the school is often unable to satisfy demand for places, both locally and beyond. As a result, during the last year the Governing Body has actively considered increasing class sizes from 18 to 20. It has been established that this would be possible with minor adjustments in some classrooms. The school also actively supports parents in learning the practical element of Consciousness-based Education, the Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique by procuring funds for this purpose.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The School is in its tenth year of operation as a Free School and continues to attract students for all year groups. Total students at the year ended on 31st August 2021 numbered 211.

As with everywhere else, the school's year has largely been dominated by the Covid-9 pandemic and the resulting restrictions again.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there were no external KS1 or KS2 assessments during the year. There were also no GCSEs taken but results were obtained from the DfE's decision to accept teachers' assessments of GCSE scores, underpinned by a DfE system of results moderation, but without the application of an algorithm as last year.

Pupils in year 6, who would have otherwise taken KS2 assessments (SATs) have responded well to the demands placed on them this year and their progress has continued to improve with each assessment point.

In reading, 94% of pupils are EQ/GT their KS1 predictions (with 35% of pupils greater than KS1).

In writing, 94% of pupils are EQ/GT their KS1 predictions (with 18% of pupils greater than KS1).

The cancellation of KS2 SATs has enabled the class teacher to focus on writing skills at an earlier stage than usual, which has allowed greater progress to be made.

In maths, 89% of pupils are EQ/GT their KS1 predictions (with 18% of pupils greater than KS1). Year 6 pupils' spring data is reflective of CAT scores in reading and maths. They are 29% lower than CAT in writing, but this has improved from 38% in the spring term.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

In 2021, the year 11 GCSE cohort consisted of 17 pupils and, as always, our small numbers can make it difficult to compare to the national picture. All of our classes are mixed ability and therefore outcomes vary accordingly.

The teachers gave their assessments based on the data they had and what they felt each pupil would have achieved had the exams gone ahead, using a range of evidence that was produced during the school year. Each subject used different evidence that met the exam board's assessment objectives. Our teachers gave very honest predictions and did not overestimate the grades, and this was confirmed by the moderation.

The estimated progress score of the GCSE pupils (based on CAT predictions) is 0.9 which is very positive.

44% of pupils received a grade 5 + in both English and maths. This was exactly in line with the CAT predictions.

The CAT predictions for Attainment 8 was 46 points and the actual results for Attainment 8 (scores of top 8 subjects, including English and maths) was higher at 55. The CAT predictions for the Ebac points was 4.32 and the actual results were higher at 5.28.

Elisabeth Cleary again deserves praise for the outstanding results in the extra-curricular Photography GCSE. Photography results were significantly higher than CAT predictions at 3.2 of a grade higher than predicted. This is in line with previous outstanding results for this subject.

Based on the school's Progress 8 performance in the 2019 school league tables, released last year, Maharishi School secondary phase was the second best secondary school in Lancashire and in the top 1.8% nationwide. The school was also rated as the best secondary school in West Lancashire by Lancashire Live's Real Schools Guide 2020. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic our estimated overall secondary phase Progress 8 scores continue to be above average.

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the School operates a programme of standardised testing of ability, attainment and attitude including Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS), Progress Test in Maths (PiM), Progress Test in English (PiE) and Progress Test in Science (PiS) scores, and Cognitive Ability Testing (CAT). Peer and Governor observation of lessons takes place and the school organises visits by external inspectors. Staff maintain contacts with other local schools to share and learn successful practice. Maharishi School continues to be part of the "Shares" cluster of local schools in which training, information and practice experience are shared to benefit all cluster members equally.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators**

Maharishi School is of the view that it is difficult to find comparable schools against which to be benchmarked, which has been reinforced by reviewing the comparator schools available from the DfE's own benchmarking tool. We have compared our financial performance against the Department for Education's benchmarking tool and the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool SRMSAT, the checklist data from which is submitted to the ESFA on the school, which used 2019/20 data. This document states the comparison is with other through schools, which experience indicates tend to be academies. The benchmarking tool has been utilised with three different routes of comparison, for which a comprehensive summary report was then produced. This method enabled comparisons with different schools according to the comparison criteria, although some appeared in more than one route group. It was found that the comparator schools were not particularly good matches for Maharishi School for varying reasons. Also, the reporting methodologies for some schools differed from our school, in some cases producing unrealistic figures against which to contrast our own. The Kreston Academies Benchmarking Report is also reviewed.

Environmentally Maharishi Secondary School is fortunate to occupy a building originally constructed using natural materials wherever practicable, including rammed earth walls. This building was converted for the School's conversion to Free School Status, under the auspices of the Department for Education, to the latest environmental performance standards, including a new roof. The subsequent addition of CCTV cameras and a higher fence have significantly improved the security and Safeguarding provision of the Secondary site. There is a longer term plan to upgrade the Primary School site to achieve more energy efficient buildings. From February 2016, the reception class and other functions occupied a new, stand-alone classroom, constructed largely of timber products and to the highest energy-efficiency standards then current.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators continued**

The school has found the introduction of Chromebooks operating through the Google Education platform and operating via Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced the learning experience for pupils and maximised the amount of teaching time within lessons, as expected. During the Covid lockdowns the school made extensive use of online platforms and teaching, and was praised for the speed this was implemented and the quality of the offering by Google Education professionals and others familiar with what other schools provided.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The school Finance Committee regularly reviews the Trust's financial status, including risks and potential forecast pressures and work towards ending each year with a balanced budget in order to maintain sufficient reserves. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the school from potential risks and are also subject to review. During the year in question, the school had projected a deficit, largely driven by a lower pupil roll the previous year and increasing teaching staff salaries to work towards the latest STRB recommendations. This deficit is expected to have decreased slightly in cash terms at year end.

The year in question is the eighth year in which the school has participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme, from which the Actuaries report indicates a scheme deficit of £490,000. This deficit is a result of the general position of the Lancashire LGPS and a review has resulted in the scheme taking an additional £283.33 per month from the school to assist in alleviating the deficit.

##### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Outlined below are the principal risks that may affect the Maharishi School Trust.

- 1 Maharishi School Trust has considerable reliance on government funding through the ESFA. In 2020/21, approximately 96% (the same as 2019/20) of the School's income was publicly funded and this requirement is expected to continue.

This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- 2 By closely monitoring the evolving education agenda and the changes outlined by the Department for Education
- 3 By closely monitoring the School's cost base and ensure value for money is obtained across all expenditures.
- 4 By working to maintain and increase pupil numbers to the maximum possible roll in order to receive the maximum achievable ESFA funding

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Reserves policy**

The governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### **Financial position**

The School held fund balances at 31 August 2021 of £466,960 (2020 - £596,478) comprising £326,072 (2020 - £446,797) of restricted funds and £140,888 (2020 - £149,681) of unrestricted general funds.

#### **Investment Policy**

During the financial year Maharishi School Trust Ltd had a cash balance of £202,168, and the governing body has renewed the placing of various sums in deposit accounts to maximise income from its balances. The objective of the academy is to ensure that sufficient funds are available at short or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements, while earning an acceptable rate of return without undue risk.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The school will continue working to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels, and will also maintain its recruitment up to the maximum capacity of our buildings. The School has significantly upgraded its built environment in recent years and is working to continue this work, to create improved conditions for both pupil learning and staff working.

#### **AUDITORS**

The auditors, JVSA Ltd, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The report of the governors was approved by the governors on 09 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



**Ian Birnbaum,  
Chairman**

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Maharishi School Trust Limited and the Secretary of State of Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statements of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year, utilising Google Meet for remote meetings following the continuation of the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions during the year.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum (Chair)	6	6
L Edwards (Principal)	6	6
G Evans	5	6
L Walters	6	6
M Ingram	6	6
R Buswell	5	6
L Wilkinson	4	6
H Copplestone	2	6
J Smalley	4	6
J Bowler	4	6
V Ross	0	1
P Duckworth	5	6
C Winteringham	5	6
A O'Neill	4	5
J Duckett	4	5
R Trandafoiu	4	5
<b>Non Trustee</b>		
P Mitchell (Clerk)	6	6

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Governance continued**

#### **Finance Committee**

The committee assists the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the School's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Finance Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Consider the financial aspects of particular matters specifically referred to the committee.
2. Consider the School's indicative budget funding obtained from the Ready Reckoner and to assess its implications for the School in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager in advance of the financial year involved, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
3. Consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the School budget, at the start of each financial year, (1st September – 31st August.)
4. Contribute to the evolution of the School's Development Plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager within the School's stated and agreed aims and objectives.
5. Receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
6. Agree limits of delegation and virements.
7. Liaise with and receive reports from other Governing Body committees as appropriate and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
8. Monitor and review income and expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the School and with the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Education and Skills Funding Agency or Department for Education, including the school's own internal financial regulations, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
9. Monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Governance continued**

10. Prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Governing Body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act requirements.
11. Receive Auditors and Responsible Officers reports and to recommend to Governing Body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
12. Recommend to the Governing Body the appointment or reappointment of the Trust's auditors.
13. Develop and recommend to the Governing Body policies on charging, lettings and contracts that are in accordance with Financial Regulations and advise governors on the financial implications of adopting certain policies.
14. Additional items as required/agreed.

#### **Premises**

1. Follow the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the Department for Education and other relevant statutory authorities concerning the upkeep of buildings and land.
2. Ensure that the conditions of the premises and grounds are monitored and receive regular reports.
3. Ensure that resources are available to implement repair and maintenance as required and in a timely manner.
4. Prepare a statement of priorities for maintenance and development (Asset Management Plan.)
5. Receive regular reports on the general maintenance of the premises and grounds and inform the Governing Body of the effectiveness of any planned maintenance programmes/Asset Management Plan.
6. Approve the budget allocation for maintenance, repairs and redecoration.
7. Oversee the preparation, implementation and monitoring of premises-related contracts.
8. Prepare a letting policy for the approval of the Governing Body and to monitor and advise the Governing Body on the use of the school by outside bodies.
9. Consider and advise the Governing Body on matters relating to the efficient and effective use of the premises and grounds.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### Governance continued

10. Draft and review the Academy's Disaster Recovery Plan and make recommendations to the Governing Body.
11. Be aware of the extent of insurance cover on premises and equipment and review annually.
12. Additional items as required/agreed.

Attendance at finance committee meetings in the year was as follows

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum	6	6
L Edwards	6	6
R Buswell	5	6
<b>Non-Trustees</b>		
J Scott	2	6
P Mitchell	6	6
M Wilkinson	5	6

#### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guidance in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020-21 regarding value for money statements published by the Education Funding Standards Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer has set out below how she has ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

#### Maharishi School 2020-21 Value for Money statement

This statement is to show that Maharishi School Trust's use of public assets and funds has provided good value for money during the year, and to identify any opportunities for potential improvement, particularly in respect of the following:

- the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources, for example to produce better educational results;
- the avoidance of waste and extravagance;

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

- the prudent and economical administration of the organisation;
- the establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, (including sound internal spending controls, keeping up-to-date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting); and
- ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.

Maharishi School Trust opened as a Free School in September 2011 with a capital cost to the Department for Education of under £1million, compared to the average premises cost of setting up a Free School published by the National Audit Office of £6.6million. The school was originally conceived on the basis of 15 pupils per class but, due to high levels of demand, we have increased class sizes to 18 by stages, and are considering increasing this to 20 pupils per class. The fact of smaller class sizes ensures that teachers can devote more time to individual pupils and their particular requirements. Maharishi School Trust, in keeping with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, has all the relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Trust is properly run and provides value for money.

All matters relating to finance are referred to the Finance Committee, which is acutely aware of the Trust's limited budget and the pressures on it. They have actively questioned expenditure proposals, challenged variances, advised on strategy and expressed their reporting requirements. When satisfied, the Finance Committee have then made appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body. Also, as required, the school has the function of an internal audit in the form of an Internal Audit Committee, as allowed due to the Trusts' size. As required in the Academies Financial Handbook, the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer is part of this committee. Maharishi School continues to utilise an independent Responsible Officer, who reviews the financial operations, compliance and risks, including the Risk Register and the school's risk management proposals, etcetera on a termly basis. Maharishi School's Responsible Officer is a chartered accountant, whose termly reports inform the deliberations of the Audit Committee and are submitted to the Governing Body.

These bodies are subject to their own Terms of Reference/ Roles and Responsibilities documents and the Finance Committee routinely meets every other month and the Internal Audit every term. Finance meetings take place ten days before Governors' meetings to ensure that the data and topics under discussion are still current. The meeting schedule is designed to accommodate the production of Quarterly finance reports in order that matters are reported and acted upon in a timely manner. Members of the Governing Body are mostly parents of current or past pupils of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body is a former Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services of a London Borough.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

Maharishi School Trust has been audited by the EFSA who have expressed their satisfaction with the financial management and governance of the Trust, including the requisite policies and procedures. These include:

- Draft internal financial regulations: these ensure that the school maintains and develops systems of financial control which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.
- Headteacher and Governing Body responsibilities: this document details the levels of decision making for all aspects of the school.
- Delegated authority table: this details the levels of authority for and conditions pertaining to expenditure amounts.
- Continuity plans for each and both school sites: these provide all the information needed to ensure the fastest possible disaster recovery of school operations.
- Risk Register: this lists all perceived potential risks to the school, level of risk and control procedures. Register updates are a Governing Body standing agenda item.
- Whistleblowing policy: this is intended to enable individuals to raise concerns about general malpractice, abuse or wrongdoing at an early stage and in the right way, without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. The policy is designed to encourage and enable individuals to raise concerns within the school or, if necessary, externally rather than to overlook a problem. (This enables any member of staff, pupil, parent or member of the public to notify the relevant authority of suspected wrongdoing and ensures investigations are conducted, and if necessary acted upon, impartially and objectively.)

Since the conversion to a Free School the Maharishi School Trust Governing Body has usually approved a balanced budget with a small GAG funding carry forward within recommended limits. The outturn figure for 2020/21 is better than that budgeted at -£21,518 (Deficit) until the pension deficit increase of £108,000, which is outside the school's control, is applied. Maharishi School holds a healthy balance of reserves, which has comfortably covered any past shortfalls. The Trust has submitted statutory financial reports, including Audited Accounts, ESFA Accounts Return and ESFA Budget Forecast Return and BFR Outturns which have satisfied the ESFA Auditors (Deloitte). The Trust has routinely compared its financial performance with the Kreston (chartered accountants) Academies Benchmark Reports and the Department for Education/Education and Skills Funding Agency Benchmarking systems. In the last two years this has been the online benchmarking tool, using three different criteria. (see Key Performance Indicators, page 9). We are satisfied with our performance compared to Academy Trusts generally, many of which have struggled financially in recent years, despite the diseconomies of scale due to our smaller class sizes and resultant per class funding, especially staff pupil ratio.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

This demonstrates a high level of responsibility in the use of the Trust's funds. The Trust makes every effort to gain the maximum value in procurement of services and products. We are confident the Trust does very well at obtaining good value overall in procurement due to the ongoing review of suppliers and their prices by the finance and admin teams. This has included joining the DfE RPA school insurance scheme in September 2019, which represented a further saving for the school. In terms of the educational and societal outcomes of Maharishi School we can demonstrate that the resources expended are offering exceptional value for money.

Maharishi School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2017 resulting in a "Good" report overall with Outstanding in Personal Development and Welfare. The school is pleased with the report, but is not complacent and is already acting on the advice for areas to be developed. This has included extending the Reception class' enclosed play area, completely resurfacing the whole area and installing outdoor play equipment. Awnings for the Reception area and other ground floor classrooms have been installed during the year in question.

Development of full potential is nurtured at Maharishi School, as indicated by other pupil achievements. In addition to statutory testing Maharishi School utilises standardised ability, attainment, and attitude testing to regularly monitor pupil abilities and social development. Extracurricular activities are encouraged and facilitated, including the Duke of Edinburgh award. This introduction has been assisted by the school fundraising group, who also assist, for example, in school trip funding, which allows us to offer a full range of educational visits across the whole school, including residential and foreign trips. Other after-hours offerings during the year included Photography GCSE.

Staff recruitment and deployment has been undertaken with care (using the practices recommended by 'Safer Recruitment'), and is regularly reviewed, to obtain the most beneficial outcomes for pupils. This has been particularly the case in the Primary phase which underwent planned expansion following becoming a Free School. Here, the allocation of teaching assistants and subject specialists reflects the specific requirements of classes as a whole and of individual pupils, including those requiring degrees of one-to-one support. As planned, the school now provides more targeted, specific literacy and numeracy support in both phases. During the last year there has been staff recruitment in both phases following staff emigration to further enhance the school's offering.

Maharishi School Trust started as a Free School with a good track record in both educational and pastoral provision and financial management, and continues that ethos to the present. We always proactively seek the best value in the use of our funds and will continue to refine our approach to improve on past performance. The development of our pupils is of paramount importance to us and we will continue to do whatever we can to maximise the value to them of our funding.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Maharishi School Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the School Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The Risk and Control Framework**

The school's trust system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:  
Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;

#### **Governance**

- Regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management risks.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**Governance continued**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- Not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed J Deegan, an accountant, as responsible officer (RO) to inform the audit committee, a sub-committee of the finance committee on any failures of the audit function that arise during her review of the systems and controls;

The Reporting Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, the Responsible Officer reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

**Review of Effectiveness**

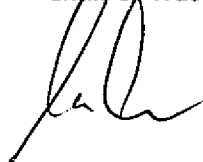
As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the responsible officer and peer review;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and general purposes committee and a plan to address weaknesses (if relevant) and ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

**I Birnbaum**  
**Chair of Trustees**



**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**



## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of Maharishi School Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Education and Skills Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds of the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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



**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**  
**10 December 2020**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who act as governors of Maharishi School Trust Limited and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed 

**I Birnbaum**  
Chair of Trustees

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
<i>Incoming Resources from generating funds</i>						
Voluntary Income	3	11,873	22,986	-	34,859	27,878
Activities for Generating funds	4	16,843	-	-	16,843	21,067
<i>Investment</i>						
Income	5	16	-	-	16	65
<i>Incoming Resources from charitable activities</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	6	-	<u>1,213,282</u>	-	<u>1,213,282</u>	<u>1,214,036</u>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>28,732</u>	<u>1,236,268</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£1,265,000</u>	<u>1,263,046</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
<i>Costs of generating</i>						
Voluntary income	9		2,732	-	2,732	13,411
<i>Fundraising</i>						
Trading	8	20,751	7,132	-	27,883	25,679
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Academy's Educational Operations	10	10,684	1,250,132	-	1,260,816	1,190,937
<i>Governance costs</i>	11		<u>55,087</u>	-	<u>55,087</u>	<u>46,029</u>
<b>Total resources Expended</b>	7	<u>31,435</u>	<u>1,315,083</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346,518</u>	<u>1,276,056</u>
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources Before transfers</b>		(2,703)	(78,815)	-	(81,518)	(13,010)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Net Incoming/ (outgoing) resources</b>						
<b>Before transfers</b>		(2,703)	(78,815)	-	(81,518)	(13,010)
Gross transfers						
Between funds	18	<u>(6,090)</u>	<u>14,026</u>	<u>(7,936)</u>		
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>						
<b>For the year</b>		(8,793)	(64,789)	(7,936)	(81,518)	(13,010)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial	18,27	<u>-</u>	<u>(48,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(48,000)</u>	<u>(43,000)</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(8,793)	(112,789)	(7,936)	(129,518)	(56,010)
Total funds brought forward	18	<u>149,681</u>	<u>(276,732)</u>	<u>723,529</u>	<u>596,478</u>	<u>652,488</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August		<u>140,888</u>	<u>(389,521)</u>	<u>715,593</u>	<u>466,960</u>	<u>596,478</u>

All of the School's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods. A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		751,548		744,866
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	68,350		42,772	
Cash at bank and in hand		202,168		288,053	
		<u>270,518</u>		<u>330,825</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(65,106)		(97,213)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			205,412		233,612
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>956,960</u>		<u>978,478</u>
Pension scheme liability	27		(490,000)		(382,000)
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>466,960</u>		<u>596,478</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted income funds</b>					
. Fixed asset fund	18	715,593		723,529	
. General fund	18	100,479		105,268	
. Pension reserve	18	(490,000)		(382,000)	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>326,072</u>		<u>446,797</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
. General fund	18	140,888		143,591	
. Designated fund	18	-		6,090	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>140,888</u>		<u>149,681</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>466,960</u>		<u>596,478</u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 53 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issued on 9 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
**Ian Birnbaum,**  
**Chairman**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b> £	<b>2020</b> £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	22	(51,286)	81,748
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	23	16	65
Capital expenditure	24	(34,615)	(11,319)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the year	25	<u>(85,885)</u>	<u>70,494</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at 1 September 2020		288,053	217,559
Net funds at 31 August 2021		<u>202,168</u>	<u>288,053</u>

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Maharishi School Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

##### **Going Concern**

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **Incoming resources**

###### **Grants receivable**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

###### **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### **Interest receivable**

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

- **Other Income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **Donated Service and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy trust's policies.

##### **Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Costs of Generating Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations.

- **Governance Costs**

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £34,615 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy.

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

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Freehold buildings                  | 1%-25% Straight Line |
| ○ Fixtures, fittings and equipment    | 25% Straight Line    |
| ○ ICT equipment                       | 33% Straight Line    |
| ○ Minibus (included within equipment) | 25% Straight Line    |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

##### Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on an actual basis over the lease term.

##### Taxation

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **Pension Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in Note 27, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contributions scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

##### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
<b>2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)</b>		
<b>a. Results and Carry Forward for the Year</b>		
<b>GAG brought forward from last year</b>	103,755	40,295
GAG allocation for current year	1,205,113	1,200,079
<b>Total GAG available to spend</b>	<b>1,308,868</b>	<b>1,240,374</b>
Recurrent expenditure from GAG	1,230,186	1,136,619
<b>GAG carried forward to next year</b>	78,712	103,755
Maximum permitted GAG carry forward at end of current year (12% of allocation for current year)	144,614	144,009
<b>GAG to surrender to DfES</b>	<b>-65,902</b>	-40,254
(12% rule breached if result is positive)		(no breach)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2021 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes. The academy trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2021.

**3 VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Private sponsorship and donations</b>				
Miscellaneous donations	11,160	-	11,160	13,698
Duke of Edinburgh	-	2,120	2,120	1,930
Europe Projects Income	-	-	-	3,457
Edna Linnell Legacy	-	15,331	15,331	-
Miscellaneous Income	713	5,535	6,248	8,793
	<u>11,873</u>	<u>22,986</u>	<u>34,859</u>	<u>27,878</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 31 August 2021

**4 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	4,874	-	4,874	1,538
Pupil Trips	727	-	727	4,320
Uniform Sale	108	-	108	258
Out of Hours Income	9,806	-	9,806	13,363
Catering Income	885	-	885	411
Bus Transfer Income	-	-	-	1,177
Recipe Book	<u>443</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>16,843</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,843</u>	<u>21,067</u>

**5 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>65</u>

**6 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	1,205,113	1,205,113	1,200,079
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,205,113</u>	<u>1,205,113</u>	<u>1,200,079</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	8,169	8,169	13,957
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,169</u>	<u>8,169</u>	<u>13,957</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,213,282</u>	<u>1,213,282</u>	<u>1,214,036</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**7 RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other Costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of activities for generating funds	17,899	-	9,984	27,883	5,679
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	2,733	2,733	13,411
Academy's educational operations					
. Direct costs	799,606	13,064	112,116	924,786	864,643
. Allocated support costs	273,940	36,405	25,625	336,030	326,294
	1,091,445	49,529	150,458	1,291,432	1,230,027
Governance costs including allocated support costs	42,357	-	12,730	58,087	46,029
	1,133,802	49,529	163,188	1,346,519	1,276,056

**Incoming /outgoing resources for the year  
include:**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor - audit	4,750	4,750
- other services	3,538	3,538
	8,288	8,288

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Catering	2,714	7,132	9,846	9,881
Uniforms	138	-	138	770
Support staff costs	17,899	-	17,899	15,028
	20,751	7,132	27,883	25,679

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
for the year ended 31 August 2021

**9 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
TM Teaching	-	1,900	1,900	11,904
Duke of Edinburgh	-	832	832	1,507
	-	2,732	2,732	13,411

**10 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**  
**DIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	799,606	799,606	723,649
Depreciation	-	27,933	27,933	27,069
Technology costs	-	24,283	24,283	22,062
Books, apparatus and stationery	-	40,917	40,917	34,910
Examination fees	-	4,071	4,071	7,119
Staff development	-	2,217	2,217	2,744
Educational Visits	908	-	908	3,029
Other direct costs	9,154	15,698	24,852	44,061
	10,062	914,725	924,787	864,643
<b>ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS</b>				
Support staff costs		273,940	273,940	271,294
Pupil recruitment and support		4,443	4,443	3,244
Maintenance of premises and equipment		17,140	17,140	18,307
Cleaning		10,080	10,080	7,529
Rates		4,767	4,767	5,247
Heat and light		10,737	10,737	7,762
Insurance		4,449	4,449	4,500
Telephone		1,760	1,760	1,592
Transport		1,563	1,563	4,339
Technology costs		68	68	106
Bank charges		317	317	303
Other support costs	622	6,143	6,765	2,071
	632	275,407	336,029	326,294
<b>ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>10,684</b>	<b>1,250,132</b>	<b>1,260,816</b>	<b>1,190,937</b>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**11 GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Legal and professional fees	-	4,442	4,442	4,903
Auditor's remuneration				
. Audit of financial statements	-	4,750	4,750	4,750
. Other audit costs	-	3,538	3,538	3,538
Support Staff Costs	-	42,357	42,357	32,838
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	55,087	55,087	46,029
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs comprise:	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	763,388	716,203
Social security costs	58,229	50,921
Other pension costs	229,993	217,978
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,051,610	985,102
Supply teacher costs	64,292	42,586
Other Supply costs	17,899	15,029
Cleaning costs	-	92
TM teaching costs	1,900	11,904
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,135,701	1,054,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### 12 STAFF COSTS (continued)

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2021 expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

##### *Charitable Activities*

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Teachers	17	19
Administration and support (including Teaching Assistants)	19	25
Management	3	3
	—	—
	39	47
	—	—

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum (including taxable benefits but excluding employers' pension contributions) during the year ended 31 August 2021. (No employees earned more than £60,000-31 August 2020).

#### 13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION & EXPENSES

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

L Edwards (principal and trustee):	£45,000 - £50,000 (2020: £45,000 - £50,000)
M Ingram (Head of Cbe, Secondary and trustee):	£25,000 - £30,000 (2020: £30,000 - £35,000)
L Walters (Deputy Head and trustee):	£35,000 - £40,000 (2020: £30,000 - £35,000)
H Copplestone	£25,000 - £33,000 (2020: £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2021, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to the trustees (2020: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

#### 14 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £681 (2020: £681).

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance costs.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Computer Equipment & Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2020	871,616	130,608	278,029	1,280,253
Additions	11,820	433	22,362	34,615
At 31 August 2021	<u>883,436</u>	<u>131,041</u>	<u>300,391</u>	<u>1,314,868</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2020	139,892	125,894	269,601	535,387
Charged in year	13,064	2,241	12,628	27,933
At 31 August 2021	<u>152,956</u>	<u>128,135</u>	<u>282,229</u>	<u>563,320</u>
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 1 September 2020	731,724	4,714	8,428	744,866
At 31 August 2021	<u>730,480</u>	<u>2,906</u>	<u>18,162</u>	<u>751,548</u>

**16 DEBTORS**

	<b>2021</b> £	<b>2020</b> £
Trade Debtors	5,905	3,947
Other Debtors	42,308	14,208
Prepayments and accrued income	20,137	24,617
	<u>68,350</u>	<u>42,772</u>

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2021</b> £	<b>2020</b> £
Trade creditors	25,828	25,162
Other creditors	6,029	37,312
Accruals	7,300	7,300
Deferred income	25,949	27,439
	<u>65,106</u>	<u>97,213</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2021

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR (continued)**

<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	27,439	33,556
Resources deferred in the year	25,949	27,439
Amounts released from previous year	(27,439)	(33,556)
Deferred Income at 31 August 2021	<u>25,949</u>	<u>27,439</u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Academy Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium booked for the autumn term 2021.

**18 FUNDS**

	<b>Balance 1 September 2020</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Gains losses and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	103,755	1,205,113	(1,238,092)	7,936	78,712
Other Government Grant	-	8,169	(8,169)	-	-
Edna Linell – TM Teaching	-	15,331	(1,900)	-	13,431
Erasmus/Europe Project	1,090	-	-	-	1,090
Chromebooks/Photography	-	5,535	-	-	5,535
Duke of Edinburgh	423	2,120	(832)	-	1,711
<b>Restricted general funds before</b>	<u>105,268</u>	<u>1,236,268</u>	<u>(1,248,993)</u>	<u>7,936</u>	<u>100,479</u>
<b>Pension Reserve</b>	(382,000)	-	(60,000)	(48,000)	(490,000)
	<u>(276,732)</u>	<u>1,236,268</u>	<u>(1,308,993)</u>	<u>(40,064)</u>	<u>(389,521)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfES capital grants	723,529	-	-	(7,936)	715,593
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>446,797</u>	<u>1,236,268</u>	<u>(1,308,993)</u>	<u>(48,000)</u>	<u>326,072</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	143,591	28,732	(31,435)	-	140,888
<b>Designated fund</b>					
Computer Fund	6,090	-	(6,090)	-	-
	<u>596,478</u>	<u>1,265,000</u>	<u>(1,346,518)</u>	<u>(48,000)</u>	<u>466,960</u>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2021

#### 18 FUNDS (continued)

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust is subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021. Note 2 discloses whether the limit was exceeded.
- (ii) Other Government Grant has been received from the Local Authority to provide individual pupil funding for SEN.
- (iii) Edna Linell Fund has the specific purpose of providing the funding to pay for the costs of teaching TM and Consciousness Based Education.
- (iv) Erasmus/Europe Project is a European Scheme set up to research the impact of TM and Consciousness Based Education in Schools to reduce radicalisation and other social problems.
- (v) A Nursery Fund has been set up for donations for the purpose of creating a new nursery for the School.
- (vi) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants. The grant is amortised over the useful economic life of the related assets on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy, the amount of £7,936 has been transferred between funds for this year.

The trust is carrying a net surplus of £100,479 on restricted funds (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) plus the balance of £140,888 on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2021.

#### 19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed asset Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	35,955	-	715,593	751,548
Current assets	170,039	100,479	-	270,518
Current Liabilities	(65,106)	-	-	(65,106)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	(490,000)	-	(490,000)
	<u>140,888</u>	<u>(389,521)</u>	<u>715,593</u>	<u>466,960</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2021

**20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The academy trust has no large future capital commitments planned at present.

**21 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

**Operating Leases**

At 31 August 2021 the academy trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Expiring within two to five years inclusive	-	3,459
Expiring in over five years-	-	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	3,459
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**22 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net (expenditure)/income	(81,518)	(13,010)
Depreciation (note 15)	27,933	27,069
Interest receivable (note 5)	(16)	(65)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	60,000	60,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(25,578)	(5,490)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(32,107)	13,244
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow from Operating Activities	(51,286)	81,748
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2021

**23 RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING FINANCE**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest received	16	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of Finance</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>65</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**24 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	34,615	11,319
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial Investment</b>	<b>34,615</b>	<b>11,319</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>August</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>2021</b>
			<b>£</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	288,053	(85,885)	202,168
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	288,053	(85,885)	202,168
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**26 MEMBERS LIABILITY**

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £6,028 (2020 - £5,887) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 and are included within creditors.

##### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

###### **Introduction**

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

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

###### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration levy)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)**

- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- The SCAPE rate, set by HMT is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. Assumed real rate of return of 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £112,376 (2020 - £107,152).

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

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

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £72,487 (2020 - £65,970), of which employer's contributions totalled £57,133 (2020 - £50,826) and the employees' contributions totalled £15,354 (2020 - £15,144). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.7 percent for employers and range from 5.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department of Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS**

	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3%	3.80%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9%	2.40%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7%	1.80%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.30%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		
-Maximum Cash	50.00%	50.00%
-3/80ths Cash	50.00%	50.00%

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (continued)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.4	22.3
Females	25.1	25.0
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.9	23.8
Females	26.9	26.8

Sensitivity analysis shows how the measurement of the schemes liabilities would be affected by changes in the relevant assumptions.

	<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>
	£000	£000
<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>		
Discount Rate +0.1%	465	362
CPI rate +0.1%	516	402
Mortality assumption – 1-year increase	527	408
Pay growth +0.1%	491	383

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2021

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2021</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2020</b>
Equities	349,000	246,000
Other Bonds	37,000	37,000
Property	69,000	74,000
Cash/Liquidity	14,000	10,000
Other	<u>221,000</u>	<u>174,000</u>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b><u>690,000</u></b>	<b><u>541,000</u></b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £80,000 (2020: loss-£4000).

**AMOUNTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(108,000)	(103,000)
Total operating charge	<u>(108,000)</u>	<u>(103,000)</u>
<b>Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)</b>		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	10,000	8,000
Interest on pension liabilities	<u>(17,000)</u>	<u>(13,000)</u>
<b>Pension finance income/(costs)</b>	<b><u>(7,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(5,000)</u></b>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a loss £288,000 (2020: £240,000).

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2021

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**Movements in the present value of defined benefit Obligations were as follows**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September 2020</b>	923,000	693,000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	108,000	103,000
Interest cost	17,000	13,000
Employee contributions	15,000	15,000
Past Service Cost (gain)	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss	120,000	102,000
Benefits/Transfers Paid	(3,000)	(3,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>1,180,000</b>	<b>923,000</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Movements in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	541,000	414,000
Interest Income	10,000	8,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	72,000	59,000
Administration Expenses	(2,000)	(2,000)
Employer contributions	57,000	50,000
Employee contributions	15,000	15,000
Benefits Paid	(3,000)	(3,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>541,000</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Deficit in Scheme at 31 August 2021</b>	<b>(490,000)</b>	<b>(382,000)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. Any transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulation and normal procurement procedures.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2021**

We have audited the financial statements of Maharishi School Trust Limited for the year ended 31 August 2021 on pages 27 to 53, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 35.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The responsibilities of the directors 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) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees on page 22.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees Annual Report is not consistent with those financial statements, if the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with these accounting records and returns, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2021**

#### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

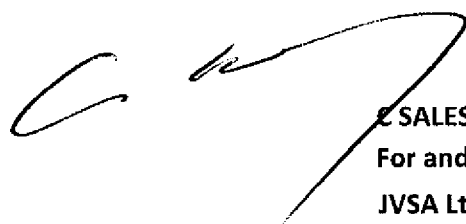
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **OPINION**

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; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.
- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the year for which the financial statements have been prepared is consistent with the financial statements.



**E SALES (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**For and on behalf of**

**JVSA Ltd**

**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

Suite 205-209 Malthouse Business Park  
48 Southport Road  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L39 1QR

9 December 2021

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AUTHORITY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Maharishi School Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Maharishi School Trust's accounting officer and the reporting auditor**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Maharishi School Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State Education dated 9 August 2011, the Deed of Variation dated 29 August 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

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

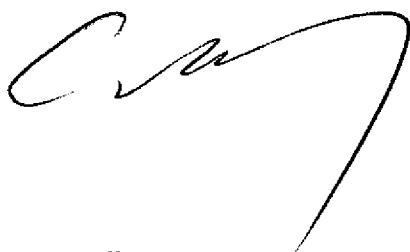
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Review expense claims and any unusual transactions ensuring the expenditure does not contravene the funding agreement
- Review of work undertaken and conclusions reached by Accounting Officer and the Responsible Individual throughout the year ensuring internal control procedures have been implemented.
- Review the risk register and representations given to trustees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities including declarations of external interests.
- All minutes of committee meetings were reviewed.

#### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects of the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



**C Sales**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

**9 December 2021**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 517958

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# Accounts

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**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

***Company Limited by Guarantee***  
***Registration Number: 1902341 (England and Wales)***  
***Charity Registration Number: 517958***

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CONTENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1 – 2
Trustees’ Report	3 - 11
Governance Statement	12 - 20
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	21
Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements	23 - 24
Independent Auditor’s Report on Regularity	25 - 26
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	27 - 28
Balance Sheet	29
Cash Flow Statement	30
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating:	
Statement of Accounting Policies	31 - 35
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	36 – 53

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the year ended 31 August 2020

Governors (Trustees)	G Evans (re-appointed 15/10/2019)
* = members of the Finance Committee	I Birnbaum* (Chairman) (re-appointed 10/12/2019)
	L Edwards
	H Coplestone (retired 31/10/2019, re-appointed 11/09/2020)
	L Walters (re-appointed 10/12/2019)
	M Ingram
	L Wilkinson
	J G Phillips (resigned 11/12/2019)
	R Buswell* (re-appointed 15/10/2019)
	J A Smalley
	J Bowler (appointed 26/4/2020)
	P Duckworth
	V Ross
	C Winteringham (appointed 6/1/2020)
Secretary	P Mitchell
<b>Senior managers</b>	
Principal/Accounting Officer	L Edwards*
Deputy Head - Secondary	L Walters
Deputy Head - Primary	H Coplestone
Director of Finance and Administration	P Mitchell*
Registered Office	Cobbs Brow Lane Lathom L40 6JJ Tel: 01695 729912
Company Registration Number	1902341 (England and Wales)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
for the year ended 31 August 2020

Auditors  
JVSA Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
20 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
L39 2BY

Bankers  
Lloyds  
PO Box 1000  
Andover  
BX1 1LT

Barclays Bank  
265-267 Lord Street  
Southport  
PR8 1PD

Solicitors  
Naphens Solicitors  
7 Winckley Square  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR1 3JD

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Constitution**

The School is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 1902341). The Academy Trust's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the School together with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Education. Members of the Academy Trust comprise of the signatories to the memorandum, up to 3 persons who may be appointed by Maharishi Foundation and 1 person who may be appointed by the Secretary of State, the Chair of Governors and others whom existing members may unanimously appoint. The articles of association require the members of the Academy Trust to appoint at least three governors to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs and management of the School.

#### **Members' liability**

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

#### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 for governors' liability on any one occurrence.

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Maharishi School Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 and 16 known as Consciousness-based Education.

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The governors who were in office at 31 August 2020 and served throughout the year are listed on page 1. During the year under review the governors held 6 meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide information on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors will be given a tour of the School, including the chance to meet with staff and students.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees continued**

All governors are provided with access to copies of our policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors. As the number of new governors a year is limited, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

Company law requires the governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, the governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 governors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The governors confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as governors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Academy Trust's auditors are aware of that information. The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Academy Trust's website.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The structure consists of two levels: The Governors and The Senior Managers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the School by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the School, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The next layer is the Senior Managers, these are the Head teacher, two Deputy Heads and the Director of Finance and Administration. These managers control the School at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Governor.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Risk Management**

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the School is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the School, and its finances.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, child protection, health and safety, data protection, relationships and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, security of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover through the DfE RPA scheme. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

During the last year the governors have been appraised of and approved the various measures taken to keep the school Covid-secure, and are satisfied the school has followed government guidelines and done the best it can under difficult circumstances to safeguard pupils, staff and parents.

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control**

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. We are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the School and enable us to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. We also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the School and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance, that:-

- The School is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy or for publication is reliable;
- The School complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Statement on the system of internal finance control continued**

The governors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed M Miley as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems on a termly basis. As of December 2019 the RO will also assess the school's proposed actions against risks the school has identified in the Risk Register. The Internal Audit Committee which is a sub-group of the Finance Committee, holds termly meetings to review the Responsible Officer's reports and make recommendations accordingly.

The Responsible Officer is required to report to the Governing Body, via the Internal Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities. These arrangements provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

#### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The main objectives of the School during the year ended 31 August 2020 are summarised below:

- to maintain the primacy of Consciousness-based Education as the unique educational strategy;
- to employ the maximum safety strategies possible to ensure a Covid- secure environment for all school users;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of appropriate resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the School by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

#### **Public Benefit**

One of Maharishi Free School's guiding principles is "The world is my family".

We recognise the unity of every individual with every aspect of the world, not only other people, but the whole environment. A practical expression of this is the fundraising of various types our pupils undertake for those in need, both at home and around the world. Although the lockdown interrupted normal fundraising activities, in the last year this has included BBC Children in Need, Save the Children, and a local foodbank. Maharishi School also, where possible, makes its facilities available to individuals and groups in the local community.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Public Benefit continued**

During the Covid pandemic, school staff and parents/carers have contributed to helping local families struggling to buy food, and has advertised local companies, some connected to the school, who are also offering help with meals.

The school is also licenced to operate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and often has the highest proportion of involved pupils in the region. The award has since been further developed within the school with sufficient time and resource allowed for pupils to work towards both Bronze and Silver awards. The Duke of Edinburgh award includes the requirement of participants to undertake a volunteering activity.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit by seeking to promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise. In support of this Maharishi School provides its highly beneficial system of Consciousness-based Education to as many children as possible within the physical constraints of the current buildings. Despite this the school is often unable to satisfy demand for places, both locally and beyond. The school also actively supports parents in learning the practical element of Consciousness-based Education, The Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The School is in its ninth year of operation as a Free School and continues to attract students for all year groups. Total students at the year ended on 31st August 2020 numbered 211.

As with everywhere else, the school's year has largely been dominated by the Covid-9 pandemic and the resulting lockdown.

Due to the lockdown, there were no external KS1 or KS2 assessments during the year. There were also no GCSEs taken but results were obtained from the DfE's final, national policy for assessing GCSE scores. This was the higher of either the centre assessed grades (CAG) or grades calculated by Ofqual via an algorithm.

In 2020, the year 11 GCSE cohort consisted of 18 pupils and, as always, our small numbers can make it difficult to compare to the national picture. All of our classes are mixed ability and therefore outcomes vary accordingly.

The teachers gave their CAG based on the data they had and what they felt each pupil would have achieved had the exams gone ahead. The data they used included November and February mock GCSE results, class work, homework, marks from past exam papers and general attitude to work. Our teachers gave very honest predictions and did not overestimate the grades which may have been the case in some other schools. The school also did not change the teachers' CAG to make them more in line with our previous results, which is also reported to have occurred in some other schools.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

There were 20 CAG's increased by the algorithm: 7 across English language and literature, 8 in Science, 3 in Geography. History and Maths were also affected. Teachers agreed with some of these changes, but not all of them. However, teachers did not have any influence over those altered grades.

From the actual grades awarded, our Attainment 8 score of 53 is the same as the estimated national average. Based on CAT scores, the cohort was predicted to achieve an Attainment 8 figure of 44, so the final result is an improvement. The percentage achieving grade 5+ in both English and Maths in 39%, which compares favourably with the CAT prediction of 28%, but is below the predicted national average of 50%. For grade 4+ in both English and Maths, the estimate is nearer the national figure at 67% to 71% nationally. The Ebacc G5+ scores are also good, with the school scoring 28% against an estimated national average of 19%. Maharishi School students achieved average points of 4.96 against a national average of 4.58. 100% of the cohort were entered for the Ebacc compared with 40% nationally.

Based on the school's Progress 8 performance in the 2019 school league tables, released this year, Maharishi School secondary phase was the second best secondary school in Lancashire and in the top 1.8% nationwide. The school has also recently been rated as the best secondary school in West Lancashire by Lancashire Live's Real Schools Guide 2020.

Elisabeth Cleary again deserves praise for the outstanding results in the extra-curricular Photography GCSE. All of her pupils exceeded their potential, largely thanks to her commitment, some by as much as 3-4 grades.

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the School operates a programme of standardised testing of ability, attainment and attitude including Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS), Progress Test in Maths (PiM), Progress Test in English (PiE) and Progress Test in Science (PiS) scores, and Cognitive Ability Testing (CAT). Peer and Governor observation of lessons takes place and the school organises visits by external inspectors. Staff maintain contacts with other local schools to share and learn successful practice. Maharishi School continues to be part of the "Shares" cluster of local schools in which training, information and practice experience are shared to benefit all cluster members equally.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators**

Maharishi School is of the view that it is difficult to find comparable schools against which to be benchmarked, which has been reinforced by reviewing the comparator schools available from the DfE's own benchmarking tool. We have compared our financial performance against the Department for Education's latest benchmarking report card on the school, which used 2018/19 data, using three different routes of comparison yielding 5 other Academies, for which a comprehensive summary report was produced. This method enabled comparisons with different schools according to the comparison criteria, although some appeared in more than one route group. It was found that the comparator schools were not particularly good matches for Maharishi School for varying reasons. Also, the reporting methodologies for some schools differed from our school, in some cases producing unrealistic figures against which to contrast our own. Last year the school started submitting the new SRMSAT checklist and will continue this to allow future benchmarking.

Environmentally Maharishi Secondary School is fortunate to occupy a building originally constructed using natural materials wherever practicable, including rammed earth walls. This building was converted for the School's conversion to Free School Status, under the auspices of the Department for Education, to the latest environmental performance standards, including a new roof. The subsequent addition of CCTV cameras and a higher fence have significantly improved the security and Safeguarding provision of the Secondary site. There is a longer term plan to upgrade the Primary School site to achieve more energy efficient buildings. From February 2016, the reception class and other functions occupied a new, stand-alone classroom, constructed largely of timber products and to the highest energy-efficiency standards.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Key Financial Performance Indicators continued**

The school has found the introduction of Chromebooks operating through the Google Education platform and operating via Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced the learning experience for pupils and maximised the amount of teaching time within lessons, as expected. During the Covid lockdown the school made extensive use of online platforms and teaching, and was praised for the speed this was implemented and the quality of the offering by Google Education professionals and others familiar with what other schools provided.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The school Finance Committee regularly reviews the Trust's financial status, including risks and potential forecast pressures and work towards ending each year with a balanced budget in order to maintain sufficient reserves. All the necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the school from potential risks and are also subject to review. During the year in question, the school had projected a reasonable surplus which increased significantly due to the reduced expenditure afforded by the Covid lockdown.

The year in question is the seventh year in which the school has participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme, from which the Actuaries report indicates a scheme deficit of £382,000. This deficit is a result of the general position of the Lancashire LGPS and a review has resulted in the scheme taking an additional £275 per month from the school to assist in alleviating the deficit.

##### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Outlined below are the principal risks that may affect the Maharishi School Trust.

- 1 Maharishi School Trust has considerable reliance on government funding through the ESFA. In 2019/20, approximately 96% (6% more than 2018/19) of the School's income was publicly funded and this requirement is expected to continue. The school was subject to a reduction in the split site funding received, following a review by Lancashire County Council.

This risk can be mitigated in a number of ways:

- 2 By closely monitoring the evolving education agenda and the changes outlined by the Department for Education
- 3 By closely monitoring the School's cost base and ensure value for money is obtained across all expenditures.
- 4 By working to maintain and increase pupil numbers to the maximum possible roll in order to receive the maximum achievable ESFA funding

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Reserves policy**

The governors review the reserve levels of the School annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### **Financial position**

The School held fund balances at 31 August 2020 of £596,478 (2019 - £652,488) comprising £446,797 (2019 - £505,157) of restricted funds and £149,681 (2019 - £147,331) of unrestricted general funds.

#### **Investment Policy**

During the financial year Maharishi School Trust Ltd had a cash balance of £288,053, and the governing body has approved the placing of various sums in deposit accounts to maximise income from its balances. The objective of the academy is to ensure that sufficient funds are available at short or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements, while earning an acceptable rate of return without undue risk.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The school will continue working to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels, and will also maintain its recruitment up to the maximum capacity of our buildings. The School has significantly upgraded its built environment in recent years and is working to continue this work, to create improved conditions for both pupil learning and staff working.

#### **AUDITORS**

The auditors, JVSA Ltd, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The report of the governors was approved by the governors on 10 December 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,  
Chairman**

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Maharishi School Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurances against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Maharishi School Trust Limited and the Secretary of State of Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statements of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year, utilising Google meet for remote meetings following the start of the Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum (Chair)	6	6
L Edwards (Principal)	6	6
G Evans	3	6
L Walters	5	6
M Ingram	6	6
R Buswell	6	6
L Wilkinson	4	6
J Phillips	0	1
H Coplestone	1	1
J Smalley	2	6
J Bowler	5	6
V Ross	4	6
P Duckworth	5	6
C Winteringham	4	4
<b>Non Trustee</b>		
P Mitchell (Clerk)	6	6

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Governance continued**

##### **Finance Committee**

The committee assists the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the School's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Finance Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Consider the financial aspects of particular matters specifically referred to the committee.
2. Consider the School's indicative budget funding obtained from the Ready Reckoner and to assess its implications for the School in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager in advance of the financial year involved, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
3. Consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the School budget, at the start of each financial year, (1st September – 31st August.)
4. Contribute to the evolution of the School's Development Plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the Principal and Business Manager within the School's stated and agreed aims and objectives.
5. Receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
6. Agree limits of delegation and virements.
7. Liaise with and receive reports from other Governing Body committees as appropriate and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
8. Monitor and review income and expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the School and with the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Education and Skills Funding Agency or Department for Education, including the school's own internal financial regulations, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Governing Body.
9. Monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Governance continued**

10. Prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Governing Body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act requirements.
11. Receive Auditors and Responsible Officers reports and to recommend to Governing Body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
12. Recommend to the Governing Body the appointment or reappointment of the Trust's auditors.
13. Develop and recommend to the Governing Body policies on charging, lettings and contracts that are in accordance with Financial Regulations and advise governors on the financial implications of adopting certain policies.
14. Additional items as required/agreed.

#### **Premises**

1. Follow the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the Department for Education and other relevant statutory authorities concerning the upkeep of buildings and land.
2. Ensure that the conditions of the premises and grounds are monitored and receive regular reports.
3. Ensure that resources are available to implement repair and maintenance as required and in a timely manner.
4. Prepare a statement of priorities for maintenance and development (Asset Management Plan.)
5. Receive regular reports on the general maintenance of the premises and grounds and inform the Governing Body of the effectiveness of any planned maintenance programmes/Asset Management Plan.
6. Approve the budget allocation for maintenance, repairs and redecoration.
7. Oversee the preparation, implementation and monitoring of premises-related contracts.
8. Prepare a letting policy for the approval of the Governing Body and to monitor and advise the Governing Body on the use of the school by outside bodies.
9. Consider and advise the Governing Body on matters relating to the efficient and effective use of the premises and grounds.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### Governance continued

10. Draft and review the Academy's Disaster Recovery Plan and make recommendations to the Governing Body.
11. Be aware of the extent of insurance cover on premises and equipment and review annually.
12. Additional items as required/agreed.

Attendance at finance committee meetings in the year was as follows

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Birnbaum	6	6
L Edwards	6	6
R Buswell	6	6
<b>Non-Trustees</b>		
J Scott	3	6
P Mitchell	6	6
M Wilkinson	5	6

#### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guidance in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019-20 regarding value for money statements published by the Education Funding Standards Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer has set out below how she has ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

#### Maharishi School 2019-20 Value for Money statement

This statement is to show that Maharishi School Trust's use of public assets and funds has provided good value for money during the year, and to identify any opportunities for potential improvement, particularly in respect of the following:

- the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources, for example to produce better educational results;
- the avoidance of waste and extravagance;

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

- the prudent and economical administration of the organisation;
- the establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, (including sound internal spending controls, keeping up-to-date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting); and
- ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.

Maharishi School Trust opened as a Free School in September 2011 with a capital cost to the Department for Education of under £1million, compared to the average premises cost of setting up a Free School published by the National Audit Office of £6.6million. The school was originally conceived on the basis of 15 pupils per class but, due to high levels of demand, we have increased class sizes to 18 by stages. This will almost fill the school's buildings to capacity. The fact of smaller class sizes ensures that teachers can devote more time to individual pupils and their particular requirements. Maharishi School Trust, in keeping with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, has all the relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Trust is properly run and provides value for money.

All matters relating to finance are referred to the Finance Committee, which is acutely aware of the Trust's limited budget and the pressures on it. They have actively questioned expenditure proposals, challenged variances, advised on strategy and expressed their reporting requirements. When satisfied, the Finance Committee have then made appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body. Also, as required, the school has the function of an internal audit in the form of an Internal Audit Committee, as allowed due to the Trusts' size. As required in the Academies Financial Handbook, the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer is part of this committee. Maharishi School continues to utilise an independent Responsible Officer, who reviews the financial operations, compliance and risks, including the Risk Register and the school's risk management proposals, etcetera on a termly basis. Maharishi School's Responsible Officer is a retired chartered accountant, whose termly reports inform the deliberations of the Audit Committee and are submitted to the Governing Body.

These bodies are subject to their own Terms of Reference/ Roles and Responsibilities documents and the Finance Committee routinely meets every other month and the Internal Audit every term. Finance meetings take place ten days before Governors' meetings to ensure that the data and topics under discussion are still current. The meeting schedule is designed to accommodate the production of Quarterly finance reports in order that matters are reported and acted upon in a timely manner. Members of the Governing Body are mostly parents of current or past pupils of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body is a former Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services of a London Borough.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

Maharishi School Trust has been audited by the EFSA who have expressed their satisfaction with the financial management and governance of the Trust, including the requisite policies and procedures.

These include:

- Draft internal financial regulations: these ensure that the school maintains and develops systems of financial control which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.
- Headteacher and Governing Body responsibilities: this document details the levels of decision making for all aspects of the school.
- Delegated authority table: this details the levels of authority for and conditions pertaining to expenditure amounts.
- Continuity plans for each and both school sites: these provide all the information needed to ensure the fastest possible disaster recovery of school operations.
- Risk Register: this lists all perceived potential risks to the school, level of risk and control procedures. Register updates are a Governing Body standing agenda item.
- Whistleblowing policy: this is intended to enable individuals to raise concerns about general malpractice, abuse or wrongdoing at an early stage and in the right way, without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. The policy is designed to encourage and enable individuals to raise concerns within the school or, if necessary, externally rather than to overlook a problem. (This enables any member of staff, pupil, parent or member of the public to notify the relevant authority of suspected wrongdoing and ensures investigations are conducted, and if necessary acted upon, impartially and objectively.)

Since the conversion to a Free School the Maharishi School Trust Governing Body has usually approved a balanced budget with a small GAG funding carry forward within recommended limits. The outturn figure for 2019/20 is better than that budgeted at £46,990 (Surplus) until the pension deficit increase of £103,000, which is outside the school's control, is applied. Maharishi School holds a healthy balance of reserves, which has comfortably covered any past shortfalls. The Trust has submitted statutory financial reports, including Audited Accounts, ESFA Accounts Return and ESFA Budget Forecast Return and BFR Outturns which have satisfied the ESFA Auditors (Deloitte). The Trust has routinely compared its financial performance with the James Crowper/Kreston (chartered accountants) Academies Benchmark Reports and the Department for Education/Education and Skills Funding Agency Benchmarking systems. In the last year this has been the online benchmarking tool, using three different criteria. (see Key Performance Indicators, page 9). We are satisfied with our performance compared to Academy Trusts generally, many of which have struggled financially in recent years, despite the diseconomies of scale due to our smaller class sizes and resultant per class funding, especially staff pupil ratio.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Review of Value for Money continued**

This demonstrates a high level of responsibility in the use of the Trust's funds. The Trust makes every effort to gain the maximum value in procurement of services and products. We are confident the Trust does very well at obtaining good value overall in procurement due to the ongoing review of suppliers and their prices by the finance and admin teams. This has included joining the DfE RPA school insurance scheme in September 2019, which represented a further saving for the school. In terms of the educational and societal outcomes of Maharishi School we can demonstrate that the resources expended are offering exceptional value for money.

Maharishi School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2017 resulting in a "Good" report overall with Outstanding in Personal Development and Welfare. The school is pleased with the report, but is not complacent and is already acting on the advice for areas to be developed. This has included extending the Reception class' enclosed play area, completely resurfacing the whole area and installing outdoor play equipment. An order for awnings for the Reception area and other ground floor classrooms was placed during the year in question, although delivery has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Development of full potential is nurtured at Maharishi School, as indicated by other pupil achievements. In addition to statutory testing Maharishi School utilises standardised ability, attainment, and attitude testing to regularly monitor pupil abilities and social development. Extracurricular activities are encouraged and facilitated, including the Duke of Edinburgh award. This introduction has been assisted by the school fundraising group, who also assist, for example, in school trip funding, which allows us to offer a full range of educational visits across the whole school, including residential and foreign trips. Other after-hours offerings during the year included Photography and Computer Science.

Staff recruitment and deployment has been undertaken with care (using the practices recommended by 'Safer Recruitment'), and is regularly reviewed, to obtain the most beneficial outcomes for pupils. This has been particularly the case in the Primary phase which underwent planned expansion following becoming a Free School. Here, the allocation of teaching assistants and subject specialists reflects the specific requirements of classes as a whole and of individual pupils, including those requiring degrees of one-to-one support. As planned, the school now provides more targeted, specific literacy and numeracy support in both phases. During the last year there has been staff recruitment in both phases following staff emigration to further enhance the school's offering.

Maharishi School Trust started as a Free School with a good track record in both educational and pastoral provision and financial management, and continues that ethos to the present. We always proactively seek the best value in the use of our funds and will continue to refine our approach to improve on past performance. The development of our pupils is of paramount importance to us and we will continue to do whatever we can to maximise the value to them of our funding.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Maharishi School Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the School Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The Risk and Control Framework**

The school's trust system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:  
Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;

#### **Governance**

- Regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management risks.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **Governance continued**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- Not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed M Miley, an accountant, as responsible officer (RO) to inform the audit committee, a sub-committee of the finance committee on any failures of the audit function that arise during his review of the systems and controls;

The Reporting Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, the Responsible Officer reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the responsible officer and peer review;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and general purposes committee and a plan to address weaknesses (if relevant) and ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

**I Birnbaum**  
**Chair of Trustees**

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPERIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of Maharishi School Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Education and Skills Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds of the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

**L Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**  
**10 December 2020**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who act as governors of Maharishi School Trust Limited and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

**Signed**

**I Birnbaum  
Chair of Trustees**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2020**

We have audited the financial statements of Maharishi School Trust Limited for the year ended 31 August 2020 on pages 27 to 53, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 35.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The responsibilities of the directors 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) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees on page 22.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees Annual Report is not consistent with those financial statements, if the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with these accounting records and returns, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST 31 August 2020**

#### **BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **OPINION**

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; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020.
- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the year for which the financial statements have been prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

20 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L39 2BY

10 December 2020

**C SALES (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AUTHORITY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Maharishi School Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Maharishi School Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Maharishi School Trust's accounting officer and the reporting auditor**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Maharishi School Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State Education dated 9 August 2011, the Deed of Variation dated 29 August 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE REGULARITY TO MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Review expense claims and any unusual transactions ensuring the expenditure does not contravene the funding agreement
- Review of work undertaken and conclusions reached by Accounting Officer and the Responsible Individual throughout the year ensuring internal control procedures have been implemented
- Review responses from 2019 FMGE Return and assessment to ensure all actions required were implemented
- Review the risk register and representations given to trustees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities including declarations of external interests
- All minutes of committee meetings were reviewed

#### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects of the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**C Sales**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**JVSA Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

**10 December 2020**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
<i>Incoming Resources from generating funds</i>						
Voluntary Income	3	12,759	15,119	-	27,878	57,695
Activities for Generating funds	4	21,067	-	-	21,067	61,116
Investment Income	5	65	-	-	65	77
<i>Incoming Resources from charitable activities</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	6	-	1,214,036	-	1,214,036	1,114,518
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>33,891</u>	<u>1,229,155</u>	-	<u>1,263,046</u>	<u>1,233,406</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
<i>Costs of generating</i>						
Voluntary income	9	-	13,411	-	13,411	9,910
Fundraising Trading	8	17,045	8,634	-	25,679	31,875
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Academy's Educational Operations	10	14,496	1,176,441	-	1,190,937	1,167,103
Governance costs	11	-	46,029	-	46,029	54,954
<b>Total resources Expended</b>	7	<u>31,541</u>	<u>1,244,515</u>	-	<u>1,276,056</u>	<u>1,263,842</u>
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources Before transfers</b>		2,350	(15,360)	-	(13,010)	(30,436)

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources</b>						
<b>Before transfers</b>		2,350	(15,360)	-	(13,010)	(30,436)
Gross transfers						
Between funds	<b>18</b>	—	<u>10,992</u>	<u>(10,992)</u>	—	—
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>						
<b>For the year</b>		2,350	(4,368)	(10,992)	(13,010)	(30,436)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial	<b>18,27</b>	—	<u>(43,000)</u>	—	<u>(43,000)</u>	<u>(99,000)</u>
<b>Net movement</b>						
<b>In funds</b>		2,350	(47,368)	(10,992)	(56,010)	(129,436)
Total funds						
brought forward	<b>18</b>	<u>147,331</u>	<u>(229,364)</u>	<u>734,521</u>	<u>652,488</u>	<u>781,924</u>
Total funds carried						
forward at						
31 August		<u>149,681</u>	<u>(276,732)</u>	<u>723,529</u>	<u>596,478</u>	<u>652,488</u>

All of the School's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods. A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**  
**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2020**

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		744,866		760,616
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	42,772		37,282	
Cash at bank and in hand		288,053		217,559	
		<u>330,825</u>		<u>254,841</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(97,213)		(83,969)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>233,612</u>		<u>170,872</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>978,478</u>		<u>931,488</u>
Pension scheme liability	27		(382,000)		(279,000)
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>596,478</u>		<u>652,488</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted income funds</b>					
. Fixed asset fund	18	723,529		734,521	
. General fund	18	105,268		49,636	
. Pension reserve	18	(382,000)		(279,000)	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>446,797</u>		<u>505,157</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
. General fund	18	143,591		134,104	
. Designated fund	18	6,090		13,227	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>149,681</u>		<u>147,331</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>596,478</u>		<u>652,488</u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 53 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issued on 10 December 2020 and are signed on their behalf by:

**Ian Birnbaum,**  
**Chairman**

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2020</b> £	<b>2019</b> £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	22	81,748	44,488
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	23	65	77
Capital expenditure	24	(11,319)	(14,836)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the year	25	<u>70,494</u>	<u>29,729</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at 1 September 2019		217,559	187,830
Net funds at 31 August 2020		<u>288,053</u>	<u>217,559</u>

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Maharishi School Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

##### **Going Concern**

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **Incoming resources**

###### **Grants receivable**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

###### **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

- **Other Income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **Donated Service and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy trust's policies.

##### Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Costs of Generating Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations.

- **Governance Costs**

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £1,280,253 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy.

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

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Freehold buildings                  | 1%-25% Straight Line |
| ○ Fixtures, fittings and equipment    | 25% Straight Line    |
| ○ ICT equipment                       | 33% Straight Line    |
| ○ Minibus (included within equipment) | 25% Straight Line    |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

##### Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on an actual basis over the lease term.

##### Taxation

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **Pension Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in Note 27, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contributions scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

##### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)</b>		
<b>a. Results and Carry Forward for the Year</b>		
<b>GAG brought forward from last year</b>	40,295	47,193
GAG allocation for current year	1,200,079	1,099,739
<b>Total GAG available to spend</b>	<b>1,240,374</b>	<b>1,146,932</b>
Recurrent expenditure from GAG	1,136,619	1,106,637
<b>GAG carried forward to next year</b>	<b>103,755</b>	<b>40,295</b>
Maximum permitted GAG carry forward at end of current year (12% of allocation for current year)	144,009	131,969
<b>GAG to surrender to DfES</b>	<b>-40,254</b>	<b>- 91,674</b>
(12% rule breached if result is positive)	(no breach)	(no breach)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2020 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes. The academy trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2020.

<b>3 VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Private sponsorship and donations</b>				
Miscellaneous donations	12,198	1,500	13,698	36,679
Duke of Edinburgh	-	1,930	1,930	892
Europe Projects Income	-	3,457	3,457	2,367
Edna Linnell Legacy	-	-	-	9,185
Miscellaneous Income	561	8,232	8,793	8,572
	<u>12,759</u>	<u>15,119</u>	<u>27,878</u>	<u>57,695</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**4 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	1,538	-	1,538	5,426
Pupil Trips	4,320	-	4,320	35,223
Uniform Sale	258	-	258	1,301
Out of Hours Income	13,363	-	13,363	15,963
Catering Income	411	-	411	2,185
Bus Transfer Income	1,177	-	1,177	1,018
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	21,067	-	21,067	61,116
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**5 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	65	-	65	77
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**6 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	1,200,079	1,200,079	1,099,739
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	1,200,079	1,200,079	1,099,739
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	13,957	13,957	14,779
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	1,214,036	1,214,036	1,114,518
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**7 RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure Other		Total	Total
		Premises	Costs	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of activities for generating funds	15,028	-	10,651	25,679	31,875
Costs of generating voluntary income	11,904	-	1,507	13,411	9,910
Academy's educational operations					
. Direct costs	723,649	17,843	123,151	864,643	872,890
. Allocated support costs	271,294	27,984	27,016	326,294	294,213
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,021,875	45,827	162,325	1,230,027	1,208,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Governance costs including allocated support costs	32,838	-	13,191	46,029	54,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,054,713	45,827	175,516	1,276,056	1,263,842
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Incoming /outgoing resources for the year**

Include:	2020	2019
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor - audit	4,750	4,750
- other services	3,538	3,588
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,288	8,338
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Catering	1,247	8,634	9,881	15,079
Uniforms	770	-	770	-
Support staff costs	15,028	-	15,028	12,656
Other support costs	-	-	-	4,140
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,045	8,634	25,679	31,875
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**9 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
TM Teaching	-	11,904	11,904	9,910
Duke of Edinburgh	-	1,507	1,507	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	13,411	13,411	9,910
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**10 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS  
DIRECT COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	723,649	723,649	676,397
Depreciation	-	27,069	27,069	43,041
Technology costs	-	22,062	22,062	16,859
Books, apparatus and stationery	-	34,910	34,910	31,046
Examination fees	-	7,119	7,119	5,911
Staff development	-	2,744	2,744	4,243
Educational Visits	3,029	-	3,029	32,037
Other direct costs	11,213	32,848	44,061	63,356
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	14,242	850,401	864,643	872,890
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS</b>				
Support staff costs	-	271,294	271,294	245,511
Pupil recruitment and support	-	3,244	3,244	4,525
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	18,307	18,307	13,173
Cleaning	-	7,529	7,529	3,022
Rates	-	5,247	5,247	4,131
Heat and light	-	7,762	7,762	7,423
Insurance	-	4,500	4,500	7,193
Telephone	-	1,592	1,592	1,676
Transport	-	4,339	4,339	5,494
Technology costs	-	106	106	364
Bank interest and charges	-	303	303	320
Other support costs	254	1,817	2,071	1,381
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	254	326,040	326,294	294,213
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>14,496</b>	<b>1,176,441</b>	<b>1,190,937</b>	<b>1,167,103</b>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**11 GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>	<b>Total 2019 £</b>
Legal and professional fees	-	4,903	4,903	5,470
Auditor's remuneration				
. Audit of financial statements	-	4,750	4,750	4,750
. Other audit costs	-	3,538	3,538	3,588
Support Staff Costs	-	32,838	32,838	38,156
Professional fees: Nursery Project	-	-	-	2,990
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	46,029	46,029	54,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs comprise:

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Wages and salaries	716,203	702,675
Social security costs	50,921	51,088
Other pension costs	217,978	159,799
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	985,102	913,562
Supply teacher costs	42,586	44,763
Other Supply costs	15,029	12,656
Cleaning costs	92	1,739
TM teaching costs	11,904	9,910
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,054,713	982,630
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 12 STAFF COSTS (continued)

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2020 expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

##### *Charitable Activities*

	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Teachers	19	19
Administration and support (including Teaching Assistants)	25	25
Management	3	3
	—	—
	47	47
	—	—

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum (including taxable benefits but excluding employers' pension contributions) during the year ended 31 August 2020. (No employees earned more than £60,000-31 August 2019).

#### 13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION & EXPENSES

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

L Edwards (principal and trustee):	£45,000 - £50,000 (2019: £45,000 - £50,000)
M Ingram (Head of Cbe, Secondary and trustee):	£30,000 - £35,000 (2019: £30,000 - £35,000)
L Walters (Deputy Head and trustee):	£30,000 - £35,000 (2019: £30,000 - £35,000)
H Copplestone	£30,000 - £35,000 (2019: £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to the trustees (2019: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

#### 14 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £681 (2019: £681).

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance costs.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Computer Equipment & Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2019	871,616	126,426	270,892	1,268,934
Additions	-	4,182	7,137	11,319
At 31 August 2020	<u>871,616</u>	<u>130,608</u>	<u>278,029</u>	<u>1,280,253</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2019	122,049	121,686	264,583	508,318
Charged in year	17,843	4,208	5,018	27,069
At 31 August 2020	<u>139,892</u>	<u>125,894</u>	<u>269,601</u>	<u>535,387</u>
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 1 September 2019	749,567	4,740	6,309	760,616
At 31 August 2020	<u>731,724</u>	<u>4,714</u>	<u>8,428</u>	<u>744,866</u>

**16 DEBTORS**

	<b>2020</b> £	<b>2019</b> £
Trade Debtors	3,947	3,903
Other Debtors	14,208	14,721
Prepayments and accrued income	24,617	18,658
	<u>42,772</u>	<u>37,282</u>

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2020</b> £	<b>2019</b> £
Trade creditors	25,162	19,365
Other creditors	37,312	18,769
Accruals	7,300	12,279
Deferred income	27,439	33,556
	<u>97,213</u>	<u>83,969</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR (continued)**

<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred Income at 1 September 2019	33,556	34,075
Resources deferred in the year	27,439	33,556
Amounts released from previous year	(33,556)	(34,075)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deferred Income at 31 August 2020	27,439	33,556

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Academy Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium booked for the autumn term 2020.

**18 FUNDS**

	<b>Balance 1 September 2019</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>Gains losses and Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2020</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	40,295	1,200,079	(1,147,611)	10,992	103,755
Other Government Grant	-	13,957	(13,957)	-	-
Edna Linell – TM Teaching	9,341	1,500	(10,841)	-	-
Erasmus/Europe Project	-	3,457	(2,367)	-	1,090
Chromebooks/Photography	-	8,232	(8,232)	-	-
Duke of Edinburgh	-	1,930	(1,507)	-	423
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted general funds before</b>					
<b>Pension reserve</b>	49,636	1,229,155	(1,184,515)	10,992	105,268
Pension reserve	(279,000)	-	(60,000)	(43,000)	(382,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(229,364)	1,229,155	(1,244,515)	(32,008)	(276,732)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfES capital grants	734,521	-	-	(10,992)	723,529
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	505,157	1,229,155	(1,244,515)	(43,000)	446,797
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	134,104	33,891	(24,404)	-	143,591
<b>Designated fund</b>					
Computer Fund	13,227	-	(7,137)	-	6,090
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	652,488	1,263,046	(1,276,056)	(43,000)	596,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 18 FUNDS (continued)

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust is subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020. Note 2 discloses whether the limit was exceeded.
- (ii) Other Government Grant has been received from the Local Authority to provide individual pupil funding for SEN.
- (iii) Edna Linell Fund has the specific purpose of providing the funding to pay for the costs of teaching TM and Consciousness Based Education.
- (iv) Erasmus/Europe Project is a European Scheme set up to research the impact of TM and Consciousness Based Education in Schools to reduce radicalisation and other social problems.
- (v) A Nursery Fund has been set up for donations for the purpose of creating a new nursery for the School.
- (vi) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants. The grant is amortised over the useful economic life of the related assets on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy, the amount of £10,992 has been transferred between funds for this year.

The trust is carrying a net surplus of £105,268 on restricted funds (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) plus the balance of £149,681 on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2020.

#### 19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed asset Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tangible fixed assets	21,337	-	723,529	744,866
Current assets	225,557	105,268	-	330,825
Current Liabilities	(97,213)	-	-	(97,213)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	(382,000)	-	(382,000)
	<u>149,681</u>	<u>(276,732)</u>	<u>723,529</u>	<u>596,478</u>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The academy trust has no large future capital commitments planned at present.

**21 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

**Operating Leases**

At 31 August 2020 the academy trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Expiring within two to five years inclusive	3,459	3,459
Expiring in over five years	-	-
	—————	—————
	3,459	3,459
	—————	—————

**22 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net (expenditure)/income	(13,010)	(30,436)
Depreciation (note 15)	27,069	43,041
Interest receivable (note 5)	(65)	(77)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	60,000	43,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,490)	(14,680)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13,244	3,640
	—————	—————
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	81,748	44,488
	—————	—————

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**23 RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING FINANCE**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest received	65	77
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of Finance</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>77</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**24 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11,319	14,836
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial Investment	11,319	14,836
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>August</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>2020</b>
			<b>£</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	217,559	70,494	288,053
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	217,559	70,494	288,053
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**26 MEMBERS LIABILITY**

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

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £5,887 (2019 - £4,943) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 and are included within creditors.

##### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

###### **Introduction**

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

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

###### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration levy)

## **MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

#### **27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

##### **Valuation of Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)**

- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- The SCAPE rate, set by HMT is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. Assumed real rate of return of 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £ 107,152 (2019 - £68,552).

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

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

## MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 August 2020

#### 27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £65,970 (2019 - £63,495), of which employer's contributions totalled £50,826 (2019 - £48,246) and the employees' contributions totalled £15,144 (2019 - £15,249). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.7 percent for employers and range from 5.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department of Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

##### PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>	<b>At 31 August 2019</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80%	3.50%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.40%	2.10%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.80%	1.80%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.30%	2.00%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		
-Maximum Cash	50.00%	50.00%
-3/80ths Cash	50.00%	50.00%

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (continued)**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>	<b>At 31 August 2019</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.3	22.8
Females	25.0	25.5
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.8	25.1
Females	26.8	28.2

Sensitivity analysis shows how the measurement of the schemes liabilities would be affected by changes in the relevant assumptions.

	<b>At 31 August 2020</b>	<b>At 31 August 2019</b>
	£000	£000
<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>		
Discount Rate +0.1%	362	677
CPI rate +0.1%	402	710
Mortality assumption – 1-year increase	408	705
Pay growth +0.1%	383	694

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2020</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2019</b>
Equities	246,000	198,000
Other Bonds	37,000	7,000
Property	74,000	36,000
Cash/Liquidity	10,000	7,000
Other	<u>174,000</u>	<u>166,000</u>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b><u>541,000</u></b>	<b><u>414,000</u></b>

The actual return on scheme assets was (loss-£4,000) (2019: £44,000)

**AMOUNTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(103,000)	(85,000)
Total operating charge	<u>(103,000)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>
<b>Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)</b>		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	8,000	10,000
Interest on pension liabilities	<u>(13,000)</u>	<u>(14,000)</u>
<b>Pension finance income/(costs)</b>	<b><u>(5,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(4,000)</u></b>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a £43,000 (2019: £99,000 - loss).

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31 August 2020

**27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (continued)**

**Movements in the present value of defined benefit  
Obligations were as follows**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September 2019</b>	693,000	446,000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	103,000	85,000
Interest cost	13,000	14,000
Employee contributions	15,000	15,000
Past Service Cost (gain)	-	2,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	102,000	133,000
Benefits/Transfers Paid	(3,000)	(2,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August 2020</b>	923,000	693,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Movements in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	414,000	309,000
Interest Income	8,000	10,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	59,000	34,000
Administration Expenses	(2,000)	(1,000)
Employer contributions	50,000	49,000
Employee contributions	15,000	15,000
Benefits Paid	(3,000)	(2,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2020	<u>541,000</u>	<u>414,000</u>
Deficit in Scheme at 31 August 2020	(382,000)	(279,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended 31 August 2020**

**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. Any transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulation and normal procurement procedures.