

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108024

Details

Status Received

Registered 2021-04-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

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College Square East
Belfast
Bt1 6DL
BT1 6DL

Phone 028 9024 0461

Email info@rbai.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Website <http://www.rbai.org.uk/>

Activities

Purposes: 11. All moneys received by the Governors under or for the purposes of this Scheme shall, subject to the other provisions of this Scheme, and to any agreements for the time being existing between the Governors and the Masters, and also to any special trusts or conditions upon which any part thereof has been or may be received, be expended and applied for the following purposes, or for such and so many of them as to the Governors for the time being shall seem expedient:- (a) To maintain the buildings, furniture, appliances, and premises of the Institution in good order and condition, and to make such additions thereto, and improvements therein, as may be required from time to time. (b) To pay all rents, taxes, cost of insurance, and other charges, necessarily or properly payable out of or for the said premises, and to defray the necessary working expenses of the Institution and cost of management. (c) To provide for the education of the pupils; for this purpose the Governors may employ and pay such Masters, Professors, Lecturers, and other Teachers as they may deem it expedient to engage for the instruction of the pupils. To provide and assist in providing pensions or retirement allowances for the Masters, Professor, Lecturers, Teachers and Officers in their employment, and to provide or assist in providing gratuities or charitable allowances for the widow and children (if any) of any Master, Professor, Lecturer, Teacher or Officer, or to a near relative or near relatives immediately dependent upon him during his life, and to set aside such part of the annual income of their endowments (not exceeding ten per cent of the amount of salaries paid annually to such Masters Professors, Lecturers, Teachers and Officers) as they may think fit for the purpose of forming a fund for such purpose or purposes, and to enter into such arrangement which an Insurance Company or Companies as to them may seem expedient and to adopt such rules or regulations for all or any of the purposes aforesaid as to them may seem expedient; which said rules or regulations may provide that the benefits thereof shall be conditional, on contribution being made thereto by the said Masters, Professors, Lecturers, Teachers and Officers, and to alter or amend such rules or regulations from time to time as they may consider necessary. (d) To provide prizes for the most deserving pupils; such may be awarded in such manner as the Governors may deem best calculated to stimulate the industry, reward the diligence, or promote the progress of the pupils. (e) To provide and maintain a suitable Library, Museum and Gymnasium and such other educational appliances as the Governors shall deem requisite or beneficial from time to time. (f) To pay such contributions and other sums as the Governors may from time to time be required to pay under the provisions of the Local Government (Superannuation) Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, and the regulations made there under. (g) To defray the expense of carrying out the other purposes of this Scheme.

What the charity does: The advancement of education

How the charity works: Education/training

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£11,109,081	£10,385,301	£-1,625,404	162

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Wilson		
Andrew Adair		
Andrew Dick		
Barbara Cheevers		
Claire Finnegan		
Colin D Gowdy		
Colin Johnston		
David Croft		
David Sterling		
Dawson Stelfox		
Gordon Parkes		
Jeff Wylie		
Jim Keith		
John Kernohan		
Martin Mcdowell		
Michael Fitch		
Michael Howard		
Michael Shaw		
Mr James Rutherford		
Mr Ryan Price		
Mrs Fiona Eakin		
Paul Dolaghan		
Peter Shields		
Ralph Magee		
Richard Wilson		
Stephen T Gowdy		

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: NIC108024



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Board of Governors 2024/25

R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (*Chairman*)

C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (*Vice Chairman*)

W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (*Hon. Secretary*)

A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.

B.J. Cheevers, B.A.

I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.

D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.

A.G. Dick MB BCH MRCP

P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)

C. Finnegan, B.A.

M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.

S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.

C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.

W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.

J.C. Kernohan, B.A.

W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.

G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.

R.J.S. Price, F.C.A.

J.E. Rutherford, B.Sc., M.A.

M. W. Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I.

P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.

J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.

W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.

J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Co-opted Governors

Sir D. Sterling, KCB

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)

F.C. Eakin, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Parent Governors

C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.

Teacher Governors

S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.

J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Principal

J. Williamson, M.A. (Oxon), N.P.Q.H.

Bursar and Secretary to the Board of Governors

C. Moore, B.A., F.C.A.

Registered Office

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution
College Square East
Belfast
BT1 6DL

Charity Number 108024

VAT Number 485740851

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

External Auditor	Baker Tilly Mooney Moore 17 Clarendon Road Clarendon Dock Belfast BT1 5GB
Internal Auditor	Sumer Accountants NI Ltd Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN
Bank	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
Investment Managers	Cazenove Capital Newton Investment Management
Solicitors	Cleaver Fulton Rankin 50 Belford Street Belfast BT2 7FW Carson McDowell LLP Murray House 4 Murray St Belfast BT1 6DN DWF (Northern Ireland) 42 Queen Street Belfast BT1 6HL

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)."

History

The Institution was founded by the public subscription of the citizens of Belfast in the early years of the nineteenth century. Members of the Institution are those who have subscribed to the Institution. Membership consists of two classes: Class I & Class II. The Class of membership held is dependent on the amount of the subscription made by the member. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution.

The foundation stone of the John Soane designed building was laid in July 1810. Belfast Academical Institution opened on 1 February 1814, as both a school for pupils and a college for students. On the occasion, Dr. William Drennan, a founder, spoke of what he envisaged as the main purpose of Inst, which was to *"diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life; not to have a good education only the portion of the rich and the noble, but as a patrimony of the whole people"*.

From 1831 until today, the School's full title has been, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). RBAI currently has over one thousand pupils on the main site and over one hundred pupils in the Preparatory Department, Inchmarlo. About one hundred and fifty new pupils enter RBAI every year from a wide variety of backgrounds: social, cultural and academic. The school encourages excellence and participation and ensures that every boy is supported pastorally so that he can perform to his potential.

The School became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2021 with charity registration number 108024.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

a) Purpose

The purpose of the School includes improving education standards, enhancing opportunities, and equipping young men to take their place in society.

b) Activities for achieving the purpose

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution carries out its purposes in the following ways:

- i. By establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast.
- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.
- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.
- iv. By providing sporting and recreational extra-curricular activities.
- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

c) Public Benefit Declaration

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include improved education standards, enhanced opportunities, and the equipping of young men to take their place in society. All of these benefit the public as a whole. The benefits are demonstrated through the examination results of students following testing, regular evaluation of services and the feedback from students and parents. The benefits are further demonstrated by the large number of boys from every section of society who progress to tertiary education or into employment on leaving school.

The beneficiaries of the charity's activities are the boys who receive their education at the School and society as a whole. There is no private benefit flowing from the purpose.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance

- i. Establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast**

The Inchmarlo Preparatory Department was established in 1917 and is continuing to provide an education for 5-11 year old boys.

- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.**

The School opened in 1810 and is continuing as a post primary voluntary Grammar School on the College Square East site.

- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.**

The School is currently providing education to equip pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

- iv. By providing sporting and recreational facilities for extra-curricular activities.**

The School provides sporting and recreational facilities across a wide range of clubs and societies.

- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.**

The Board of Governors continues to invest in a series of capital projects to support the School to deliver its academic and co-curricular objectives.

The School does not receive capital grant aid from the Department of Education/Education Authority and is required to raise its own funds to support capital projects.

- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.**

The School employs suitably qualified teachers to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The academic and co-curricular achievements are reported to the Board of Governors at every Board meeting. A report on the property held and the financial position of the School is also presented at every meeting of the Board of Governors.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Fundraising and generating income

RBAI is a category B Voluntary Grammar school. The School receives funding from the Department of Education towards teaching and learning, however it does not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the School estate. Philanthropy, income from investments and fees from parents form a critical element of the School's capital development plan. Fundraising campaigns are overseen by the RBAI Foundation Office.

Plans for future periods

In order to continue to offer the excellent education that the School has provided for over two hundred years, the Board of Governors has developed a long term vision for the school campus by identifying future needs and priorities of the whole school. The campus vision is to replace the swimming pool and dining hall and ensure all classrooms are fit for purpose. The planning application to deliver the campus vision was approved by Belfast City Council on 13 August 2024. Phase 1 of the project is scheduled to commence in July 2025.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 22-44 comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income of £724k before investment losses of £261k for the year. The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025, shows net assets of £43.3m.

The grant funding from the Education Authority, at just over £7.1m, represents 64% of our total income of £11.2m.

The combined staff costs are £7.2m, equating to over 100% of Common Formula Grant funding, illustrating the challenge of funding the School. Total staff costs represent 70% of total expenditure.

The increase in fees reflects an annual inflationary increase along with stable pupil numbers at the Main School.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The major challenges faced by the Institution are threefold:

- Firstly, funding the revenue deficit for the Main School due to the insufficient funding from the Department of Education
- Secondly, ensuring the Preparatory Department remains viable and
- Thirdly, funding both the maintenance and replacement of buildings on the School Campus.

The Board of Governors, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will continue to address all three issues and manage the financial affairs of the Institution to ensure a long and secure future for the School.

The Board receives regular financial reports including Management Accounts at every Board meeting and prepares budgets and capital plans on an annual basis.

Going Concern

The Board of Governors, through the Finance & General Purposes Committee, has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The Department of Education has confirmed interim Common Formula Funding allocation of £6,713,621 for the year 2025/26.

Investment powers and policies

The School's assets must be invested in accordance with the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the School's own 'Scheme of Endowment'. This is enacted by the Investment Committee through the School's Investment policy.

The purpose of the Investments is to provide the School with sufficient income to meet its needs whilst maintaining the value of the capital in real terms.

The School's investments are managed by two fund Managers: Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

Charitable Funds Reserves policy

The accounting policy for the various charitable funds is included in Note 1.3 to the Financial Statements.

The total charitable funds held by the school at 31 March 2025 was £43.3m. The amount of these funds which are restricted and not available for the general purposes of the School at 31 March 2025 was £2.13m.

The unrestricted funds totalling £41.20m at 31 March 2025 comprise the general unrestricted fund and the designated unrestricted fund.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Governors have designated unrestricted funds for the following purposes at 31 March 2025: an amount equivalent to the tangible fixed assets used to carry out the School's activities (£13.87m); an amount to meet future essential capital expenditure which cannot be funded out of income (£12.3m); an amount for future capital expenditure on the school hockey pitch (£0.012m); and an amount to invest to generate an income stream to fund ongoing charitable activities (£10m). These designated funds are required as the Department of Education only provides funding towards teaching and learning and not towards the upkeep of the School estate and other costs. Details of these designated unrestricted funds are included in Note 22 to the Financial Statements.

The general unrestricted fund Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed at least annually by the Governors as appropriate given the plans for the future activities of the School. At 31 March 2025, the Governors have set a target level of general unrestricted fund reserves amounting to six months' working capital outgoing resources which amounts to £5.0m.

Tax Status

The School is registered as a charity for corporation tax purposes. The School is registered for VAT.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Institution is governed by the Scheme of Endowment. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution. Governors are appointed from within the membership of the Institution.

Appointment or election of Governors

Representative Governors are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Co-opted Governors, with a specialist interest in education are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Teacher Governors are elected from and by the body of permanent teaching staff in the organisation for a period of four years. Parent Governors are elected from and by the body of parents/guardians of pupils enrolled in the School, including the Preparatory Department, for a period of four years.

The Representative Governors at March 2025 are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Vacate
2025 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. C. Finnegan, B.A.2. B.J. Cheevers, B.A.3. M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.4. R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (<i>Chairman</i>)5. C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.6. G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.7. J.E. Rutherford B.Sc., M.A.8. M W Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I. |
| Vacate
2026 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.10. P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)11. S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.12. J.C. Kernohan, B.A.13. R.J.S. Price, F.C.A.14. W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.15. P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.16. J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A. |
| Vacate
2027 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">17. I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med. (<i>Deceased 29 April 2025</i>)18. D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.19. A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP20. C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)21. W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.22. J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.23. W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.24. W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>) |

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Co-opted Educational Governors at March 2025 are as follows:

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)	(vacate 2025)
F.C. Eakin, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2026)
Sir D. Sterling KCB	(vacate 2027)

The Parent Representative Governors at March 2025 are as follows:

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.	(vacate 2025)
C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.	(vacate 2025)

The Teacher Representative Governors at March 2025 are as follows:

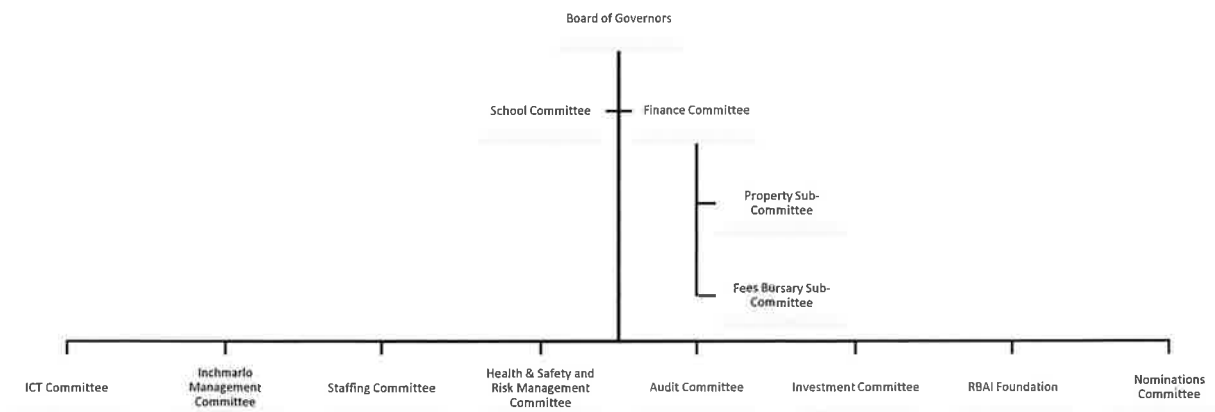
S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)
J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)

Newly appointed Governors receive induction training from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the Bursar. All Governors receive annual safeguarding and child protection training. A suite of training programmes is provided by the Education Authority for all Governors.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Governors is supported in carrying out its Governance role by Committees and Sub-Committees.

Governance Structure



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

School Committee

The School Committee has responsibility with regard to the educational and pastoral aspects of the School. In doing so the Committee reviews the process for the intake to Year 8; oversees teaching appointments; considers the on-going review and implementation of the School's Development Plan, reviews the provision of Pastoral Care, including Child Protection and Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.), and considers various educational initiatives, internal reviews and policies.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps under review all aspects of the School's finances through annual budgets and financial reports.

Property Sub-Committee

The Property Sub-Committee manages a wide range of capital development and maintenance matters pertaining to the School's estate.

Fees Bursary Sub-Committee

The Fees Bursary Sub-Committee administers the School's Fees Bursary Scheme. The Governors believe that no boy should be denied an education in the Secondary Department because of the financial circumstances of his parents or guardians. The Fees Bursary Scheme supports parents/guardians to meet the fees which the School charges.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considers the School's Annual Report and Financial Statements; receives the reports and recommendations of the internal and external auditors; and thereby reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the School's systems of internal control and financial management.

The internal auditor, Sumer NI, reported that the Institution had a sound framework of control, which provided satisfactory assurance regarding the system of internal financial control.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee considers a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of individuals within the teaching and non-teaching staff, including internal and external appointments. It also determines salaries.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the School's fund managers against their set objectives of providing both revenue income - to make good the shortfall in Government funding - and capital growth – to ensure the School's financial stability into the future.

I.C.T. Committee

The I.C.T. Committee manages the rolling I.C.T. hardware and infrastructure requirements of Inchmarlo and the Main School. The Committee also oversees the formation of policies and distribution of resources to support learning.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee

The Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee provides an oversight of matters relating to the School's on-going risk management process and procedures across a range of aspects.

RBAI Foundation Committee

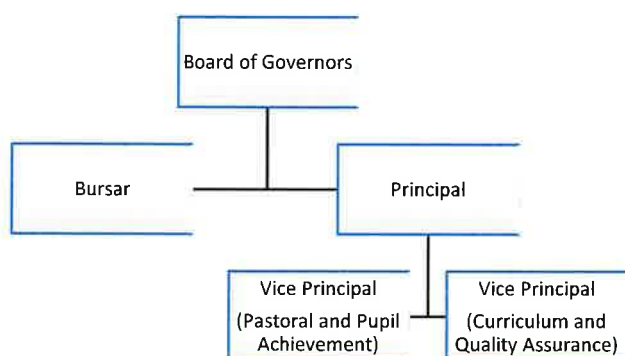
The RBAI Foundation Committee oversees fundraising and works closely with the Belfast Old Instonians Association and serves as the hub for communications with alumni and friends of the School around the world.

Inchmarlo Management Committee

The Inchmarlo Management Committee considers a diverse range of issues including: the educational provision and performance of the pupils, the School's Development Plan; pupil intake and enrolment numbers; administration of pastoral matters; finance and budgetary administration; and the maintenance of the Inchmarlo estate.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assessment), the Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar, has responsibility for implementing and managing the strategies approved by the Board of Governors.



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Decision making

The Board of Governors determine the strategic direction and policies for the School. Responsibility is delegated to the Senior Leadership Team to implement the strategies and policies and ensure the School achieves its aims and objectives. The School Development Plan and associated budgets provide a framework for the implementation of the strategies.

Representatives of the Senior Leadership Team attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and provide written and verbal information regarding the progress of the implementation of the School Development Plan, budgetary updates, variances arising and any remedial action taken.

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

The Staffing Committee review the salaries of all staff on an annual basis. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board for any changes in salary, outside of agreed national agreements, including the salaries of the Senior Leadership Team. The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the setting of staff salaries.

Relationships with Related Parties

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Statement of Governors' Responsibilities

The Board of Governors of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the School and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Endowment, the Board of Governors, through its Chairman, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School and the result for that year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

In preparing the financial statements the Board of Governors is 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 assume that the School will continue in operation.

The Board of Governors is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes the School objectives and how they are to be achieved, including the legal and administrative status of the School.

The Board of Governors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records to safeguard the assets of the School and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The Board of Governors has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Department of Education are used only for the purposes for which they have been given;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the School;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the School's resources and expenditure.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the members of the Board of Governors is aware at the time this report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- that the members of the Board have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Board Governors on 16 June 2025 by:



Michael Howard
R.M. Howard - Chairman

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (the 'School') for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at 31st March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the standards of accounting set by the Department of Education for Voluntary Grammar Schools Statement of Accounts and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Proper accounting records have been kept by the School throughout the period;
- The School's whole system of internal control in the relevant financial period was such as to comply with the obligations placed on the Board of Governors by the Department of Education and we have not identified any significant weaknesses;
- Grants made by the Department of Education and funds from other sources reported in the relevant financial period have been applied in accordance with the Financial Memorandum and any other terms and requirements attached to them;
- Pension deductions made by the school in the relevant financial period were calculated correctly and have been paid over as required; and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable law, guidance issued by the Department of Education and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the school in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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 audit opinion.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other Matter

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 28 May 2024.

Other Information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where legislation requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Governors' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement set out on pages 14 to 15, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

We considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to revenue recognition. 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 that the School operates in, focusing 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 Northern Ireland Education Legislation and local tax legislation.

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 School's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with the Education Authority guidance for Voluntary Grammar Schools.

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, the Audit & Risk Committee in-house concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing regulatory correspondence;
- obtained an understanding of provisions; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:
<http://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 School's Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the School's Governors 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 School and its Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Baker Tilly Mooney Moore

Baker Tilly Mooney Moore

17 Claredon Road

Clarendon Dock

Belfast

BT1 5GB

Date: *19th June 2025*

Baker Tilly Mooney Moore is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	-	93,144	147,123	240,267	424,632
Charitable activities	3	9,284,526	-	-	9,284,526	8,654,009
Investments	6	833,224	17,000	19,811	870,035	848,360
Other sources	7	714,253	-	-	714,253	709,438
Total income		10,832,003	110,144	166,934	11,109,081	10,636,439
Expenditure on:						
Fundraising activities	8	144,436	27,912	120,518	292,866	307,166
Charitable activities	9	9,631,888	375,547	-	10,007,435	9,429,881
Other	14	-	85,000	-	85,000	
		9,776,324	488,459	120,518	10,385,301	9,737,047
Net income (expenditure) for the year		1,055,679	(378,315)	46,416	723,780	899,392
Loss/(gain) on investments	17	(261,084)	-	-	(261,084)	1,893,625
Transfer between reserves		(22,478,152)	22,478,152	-	-	
Fund balances at 1 April 2024	22	26,683,557	14,102,990	2,087,454	42,874,001	40,080,984
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		5,000,000	36,202,827	2,133,870	43,336,697	42,874,001

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 44 form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	16	13,870,372	13,454,450
Investments	17	27,036,965	25,298,049
Investment properties	18	10,000	920,000
Total fixed assets		40,917,337	39,672,499
Current assets			
Debtors	19	901,940	1,111,924
Cash at bank and in hand	20	3,142,824	3,869,719
Total current assets		4,044,764	4,981,643
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	1,625,404	1,780,141
Total current liabilities		1,625,404	1,780,141
Net current assets		2,419,360	3,201,502
Total assets less liabilities		43,336,697	42,874,001
Represented by:	22		
Unrestricted funds:			
General		5,000,000	26,683,557
Designated		36,202,827	14,102,990
Total Unrestricted Funds		41,202,827	40,786,547
Restricted funds:			
Trust Fund Accounts - Capital		499,523	499,523
Trust Fund Accounts - Revenue		320,011	311,951
RBAI Foundation		1,312,054	1,273,754
War Memorial Fund		2,281	2,225
Inst Hockey Limited		1	1
Total Restricted Funds		2,133,870	2,087,454
Total Funds		43,336,697	42,874,001

The 2024 Balance Sheet has been restated for comparative purposes.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring the charity keeps accounting records that comply with section 386 of the Act
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year.
- The notes on pages 26 to 44 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Governors on 16 June 2025.



R.M. Howard
Chairman



J.C. Kernohan
Convenor of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	23	284,539	224,074
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Payments for Fixed Assets		(791,469)	(373,908)
Income from estates properties		7,310	17,674
Net proceeds from sale of land		887,417	5,000
Income from dividends		812,777	770,403
Income from bank interest		72,531	55,283
Additional investments		(2,000,000)	-
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities		(1,011,434)	474,452
Change in cash and cash equivalents	20	(726,895)	698,526
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		3,869,719	3,171,193
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		3,142,824	3,869,719

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Format and basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008."

1.2. Going Concern

The Board of Governors has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3. Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside, at the discretion of the Governors, for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4. Recognition of Income

From the year ended 31 March 2025 School Fees relating to services provided in April, May and June in the post balance sheet period are accounted for as deferred income.

Income from hire of premises is included to the extent of the completion of the contract.

All investment income received is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is received.

The recurrent grant and other revenue grants received from the Department of Education are recognised in the period in which they are received/receivable.

1.5. Allocation of costs

Costs relating to the charity are all School costs. The costs associated with fundraising are the costs incurred by the RBAI Foundation office.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1.6. Pension Schemes

The two principal pension schemes for the School's staff are the Northern Ireland Teachers' Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the NITPS for teaching staff and to NILGOSC for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

The NITPS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The current regulations under which the scheme operates are the Teachers' Pension Regulations (NI) 1998 (as amended). The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions expenses as they are paid each year.

A full actuarial review of the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme was carried out at 31 March 2020. The employer contribution rate has remained at 29.1% since 1 April 2024.

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by the NILGOSC Actuary, Aon plc. Employers' contribution rates have remained at 19.0% since 1 April 2023.

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions are expenses as they are paid each year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1.7. Tangible Fixed Assets

Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are stated in the Balance Sheet on the basis of historical cost, as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. The carrying value of the School's land is deemed to be nil, as the land held by the School was purchased or donated at a cost that is now immaterial for valuation purposes. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings and major adaptations to buildings are depreciated over 50 years. A review of building condition and useful lives is reassessed every 5 years. Capital Development costs are professional fees and expenditure incurred in the preparation for the construction of the campus vision. These costs are capitalised but will not be depreciated until construction of Phase 1 has been completed.

Capital Redevelopment

Costs relating to the capital development of the school site are included in the Balance Sheet at cost. This cost will be transferred to Land and Buildings when Phase 1 of the development is complete. Depreciation is not charged on the capital development costs.

Equipment & Motor Vehicles

Equipment costing less than £10,000 per individual item is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated as follows:

Motor vehicles	5 years;
General equipment	10 years;
Computer equipment	3 years.

1.8. Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on the revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income is accounted for in the period in which it is received.

1.9. Investment Property

The School holds ground rents for investment purposes. This is included at deemed market value at the balance sheet date.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1.10. Maintenance of Premises

The cost of routine maintenance, responsive and preventative, is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period that it is incurred.

1.11. Taxation

As a registered charity, the School does not make any provision for a tax liability as it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11 of CTA 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The School became registered for VAT on 8 December 2024. The School charges VAT on the fees for education it provides to students. For this reason the School is partially exempt in respect of VAT, so that it can only recover an element of VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of Land and Buildings and Equipment as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are Land and Buildings and Equipment by nature.

1.12. Employee benefits

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

1.13. Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes amounts held on deposit with the School's banks and cash deposits held by one of the School's Fund Managers.

1.14. Liabilities and provisions

Provisions are recognised when the School has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

1.15. Debtors

Estimates are made in respect of the recoverable value of School fee debtors and other debtors. When assessing the level of provisions required, factors including current trading experience, historical experience and the ageing profile of debtors are considered.

1.16. Stock

The School does not hold stock for resale.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
RBAI Foundation	93,144	147,123	240,267	424,632
	<u>93,144</u>	<u>147,123</u>	<u>240,267</u>	<u>424,632</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Note	2025	2024
	Unrestricted – General		Total
		£	£
Education Authority Grants	4	7,136,778	6,648,046
School Activities	5	2,147,748	2,005,963
		<u>9,284,526</u>	<u>8,654,009</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. INCOME FROM EDUCATION AUTHORITY GRANTS

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Common Formula Funding Grant	6,441,104	85,441	6,526,545	5,604,261
Classroom Assistant Grant	268,852	118,890	387,742	308,143
Grant: Staff Cover	41,907	4,156	46,063	16,428
Grant: Teachers' Back Pay	153,757	3,222	156,979	671,126
Under funding of 2023/24 Back Pay	(66,980)	(1,431)	(68,411)	-
Grant: Non-Teaching payrise	38,274	19,648	57,922	23,941
Grant: SEND	9,731	567	10,298	9,055
Other DE Grants	14,600	5,040	19,640	16,092
	<u>6,901,245</u>	<u>235,533</u>	<u>7,136,778</u>	<u>6,648,046</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

5. INCOME FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fees	1,391,712	607,353	1,999,065	1,844,583
Sundry income	52,981	6,302	59,283	73,250
Pupils' Text Books & Stationery	74,760	14,640	89,400	88,130
	<u>1,519,453</u>	<u>628,295</u>	<u>2,147,748</u>	<u>2,005,963</u>

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted - General	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	775,966	17,000	19,811	812,777	770,403
Bank Interest	72,531	-	-	72,531	55,283
Land & Property Rent	7,310	-	-	7,310	17,674
Loss on sale of Investment Property	(22,583)	-	-	(22,583)	5,000
	<u>833,224</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>19,811</u>	<u>870,035</u>	<u>848,360</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from use of premises	10,446	3,900	14,346	58,513
Sundry Income	48,547	-	48,547	71,866
Wraparound Care	-	141,526	141,526	137,302
Dining Halls	407,193	102,641	509,834	441,757
	<u>466,186</u>	<u>248,067</u>	<u>714,253</u>	<u>709,438</u>

8. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

		2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Note	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
		£		£	£	£
RBAI Foundation Staff Costs	10	119,715	-	-	119,715	110,514
RBAI Foundation Admin		24,721	-	-	24,721	33,606
RBAI Foundation Bursaries		-	27,904	79,200	107,104	105,622
Trust Fund Bursaries		-	-	795	795	1,634
RBAI Foundation Other		-	8	29,623	29,631	45,544
Trust Funds Expenditure		-	-	10,900	10,900	10,246
		<u>144,436</u>	<u>27,912</u>	<u>120,518</u>	<u>292,866</u>	<u>307,166</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

9. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Note	Main School	Prep	Designated Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Grant funded	10	6,077,760	751,797	-	6,829,557	6,430,103
Staff Costs - School funded	10	117,169	130,448	-	247,617	217,728
School Costs	12	1,749,509	182,171	-	1,931,680	1,846,076
Other Costs	13	485,887	137,147	-	623,034	562,691
Depreciation	16	-	-	375,547	375,547	373,283
		<u>8,430,325</u>	<u>1,201,563</u>	<u>375,547</u>	<u>10,007,435</u>	<u>9,429,881</u>

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Funded from Grant	6,077,760	751,797	6,829,557	6,430,103
Staff Costs - School funded	117,169	130,448	247,617	217,728
Staff Costs - Fundraising	119,715	-	119,715	110,454
	<u>6,314,644</u>	<u>882,245</u>	<u>7,196,889</u>	<u>6,758,345</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	5,308,781	5,079,434
Social Security Costs	554,051	515,748
Pension Costs	1,334,057	1,163,163
	<u>7,196,889</u>	<u>6,758,345</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The number of employees whose emoluments for the year exceeded £60,000 are shown in the table below (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employers' pension costs and employers' national insurance costs.)

	2025	2024
£60,000 - £69,999	4	1
£70,000 - £79,999	2	2
£80,000 - £89,999	1	-
£90,000 - £99,999	-	-
£100,000 - £109,999	-	-
£110,000 - £119,999	-	1
£120,000 - £129,999	1	-

	2025	2024
Average Staff Numbers	162	155

11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the School and are represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal, Vice Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assurance), Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar.

Emoluments of Key Management Personnel (including the Principal) are as follows:

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	No.	£	No.	£
Aggregate employee benefits of key management personnel	4	506,904	4	462,013

There were no payments, including expenses, to members of the Board of Governors during the year (2024: nil).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

12. SCHOOL COSTS ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Estates Costs	980,195	122,852	1,103,047	1,035,648
Academic Costs	397,535	23,170	420,705	441,825
Sports & Games	155,767	4,730	160,497	148,599
Administration & other costs	216,012	31,419	247,431	220,004
	<u>1,749,509</u>	<u>182,171</u>	<u>1,931,680</u>	<u>1,846,076</u>

13. OTHER SCHOOL COSTS

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charges for admissions process	8,657	-	8,657	8,626
Wraparound Care	-	13,534	13,534	12,891
Dining Hall	477,230	123,613	600,843	541,174
	<u>485,887</u>	<u>137,147</u>	<u>623,034</u>	<u>562,691</u>

14. OTHER COSTS

	2025	2024
	Designated Funds	Designated Funds
	£	£
Release of hockey pitch sinking fund	85,000	-
	<u>85,000</u>	<u>-</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2025	2024
	£	£
Internal Auditors' Remuneration	4,000	3,594
External Auditors' Remuneration	5,500	6,240
Auditors' Remuneration	<u>9,500</u>	<u>9,834</u>

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings	Capital Redevelopment	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	18,484,565	410,596	32,000	104,084	19,031,245
Additions	2,182	761,687	27,600	-	791,469
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,486,747</u>	<u>1,172,283</u>	<u>59,600</u>	<u>104,084</u>	<u>19,822,714</u>
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	5,478,137	-	25,800	72,858	5,576,795
Depreciation	356,519	-	8,620	10,408	375,547
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,834,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,420</u>	<u>83,266</u>	<u>5,952,342</u>
NBV 31 March 2025	<u>12,652,091</u>	<u>1,172,283</u>	<u>25,180</u>	<u>20,818</u>	<u>13,870,372</u>
NBV 31 March 2024	<u>13,006,428</u>	<u>410,596</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>31,226</u>	<u>13,454,450</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

17. INVESTMENTS

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2024	25,298,049
Additional investment	2,000,000
Loss on investments	(261,084)
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	27,036,965
	<hr/>

Long-term investments are held in a mix of funds managed by two professional fund management groups. In addition, short-term surplus cash balances, as determined by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, are held in a money market fund. The loss on investments is an unrealised loss on the market value of the investments at 31 March 2025.

The School's investments are managed by two fund Managers: Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

The School also holds a 50% shareholding valued at £1 in Inst Hockey Limited.

18. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2024	920,000
	(910,000)
Disposal of investments	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	10,000
	<hr/>

The School holds ground rents for investment purposes. This is included at deemed market value at the balance sheet date.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

19. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
School Fee Debtors	662,791	431,178
Other Debtors	200,448	657,038
Prepayments	38,701	23,708
	<u>901,940</u>	<u>1,111,924</u>

20. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	Cashflow	2025
	£	£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand	3,869,719	(726,895)	3,142,824
	<u>3,869,719</u>	<u>(726,895)</u>	<u>3,142,824</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

21. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	141,937	111,278
Accruals and sundry creditors	271,065	170,600
Pupil Deposits	92,430	92,720
Deferred Income	41,593	29,266
Payroll Accruals	483,996	976,440
Social Security and Pensions	267,557	224,557
VAT due to HMRC	150,509	-
Balances held for:		
School No. 2 Account	116,623	115,036
Scout Group	5,620	4,267
Inchmarlo No. 2 Account	54,074	55,977
	<u>1,625,404</u>	<u>1,780,141</u>

Deferred income relates to the income for hire of premises invoiced in 2024/25, which relates to the period 2025/26. The 2023/24 deferred income has been fully released and the 2024/25 deferred income relates only to income newly deferred in the year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Unrestricted			Restricted				Total
	General	Designated	Trust Funds Capital	Trust Funds Revenue	RBAI Foundation	Inst Hockey Limited	War Memorial Fund	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2024	26,683,557	14,102,990	499,523	311,951	1,273,754	1	2,225	42,874,001
Income	10,832,003	110,144	-	19,755	147,123	-	56	11,109,081
Expenditure	(9,776,324)	(488,459)	-	(11,695)	(108,823)	-	-	(10,385,301)
Loss on investments	(261,084)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(261,084)
Transfer	(22,478,152)	22,478,152	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2025	5,000,000	36,202,827	499,523	320,011	1,312,054	1	2,281	43,336,697

Make up of Designated Funds

Tangible Fixed Assets to carry out the School's activities	13,870,372
Amount to meet future essential capital expenditure which cannot be funded out of income	12,320,455
Amount for future capital expenditure on the school hockey pitch	12,000
Amount to generate an income stream to fund ongoing charitable activities	<u>10,000,000</u>
	<u>36,202,827</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

23. ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income before investment losses	723,780	899,392
Elimination of non operating cashflows		
Investment income	(870,035)	(848,360)
Depreciation	375,547	373,283
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	209,984	(684,003)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(154,737)	483,762
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>284,539</u>	<u>224,074</u>

24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no reportable post balance sheet events.

25. PENSIONS

The School participates in two defined benefit pension schemes, the Northern Ireland Teacher's Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) for teaching staff and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Pension Committee (NILGOSC) for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

NITPS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year. The School contribution rate for the year commencing 1 April 2025 will be 29.1% (2024/25: 29.1%).

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by NILGOSC's Actuary, Aon Hewitt.

The Fund's assets at 31 March 2022 were £10,231.1m and the past service liabilities were £9,226.7m, corresponding to a surplus of £1,004.4m and a funding level of 111%. The School contribution rate for the year commencing 1 April 2025 will be 19% (2024/25: 19%).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Key assumptions for 2022 were:

	2022	2019
CPI inflation rate	2.3%	2.1%
Rate of increase in pensionable salaries	3.8%	3.6%
Investment returns	4.2%	4.1%

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions are recognised as they are paid each year.

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Commitments at 31 March	-	-

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. There are no disclosable related party transactions.

Three members of the Board of Governors also serve as Directors of Inst. Hockey Limited.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

27. SOFA COMPARATIVES

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies\	2	-	137,930	286,702	424,632
Charitable activities	3	8,654,009	-	-	8,654,009
Investments	7	797,407	19,187	31,766	848,360
Other sources	8	709,438	-	-	709,438
Total income		10,160,854	157,117	318,468	10,636,439
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising activities	9	144,120	1,240	161,806	307,166
Charitable activities	10	9,056,598	373,283	-	9,429,881
		9,200,718	374,523	161,806	9,737,047
Net income (expenditure) for the year		960,136	(217,406)	156,662	899,392
Gain on investments	17	1,576,708	-	316,917	1,893,625
Fund balances at 1 April 2023	22	24,146,713	14,320,396	1,613,875	40,080,984
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		26,683,557	14,102,990	2,087,454	42,874,001

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: NIC108024



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Board of Governors 2023/24

R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (*Chairman*)

C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (*Vice Chairman*)

W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (*Hon. Secretary*)

A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.

B.J. Cheevers, B.A.

I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.

D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.

A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP

P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)

C. Finnegan, B.A.

M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.

S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.

C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.

W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.

J.C. Kernohan, B.A.

K.O. Latimer, O.B.E., M.A., Dip.Lib.Stud., F.C.L.I.P. (Resigned 26 June 2023)

W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.

G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.

R.J.S. Price, F.C.A. (Appointed 18 September 2024)

J.E. Rutherford, B.Sc., M.A.

M. W. Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I.

P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.

J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.

W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.

J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Co-opted Governors

Sir D. Sterling, KCB

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)

F.C. Eakin, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.G.C.E. (Co-opted 18 September 2023)

Parent Governors

C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.

Teacher Governors

S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.

J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Principal

J. Williamson, M.A. (Oxon), N.P.Q.H.

Bursar and Secretary to the Board of Governors

C. Moore, B.A., F.C.A.

Registered Office

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution
College Square East
Belfast
BT1 6DL

Charity Number 108024

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

External Auditor	Moore (N.I.) LLP 7 Donegall Square North Belfast BT1 5GB
Internal Auditor	ASM Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN
Bank	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
Investment Managers	Cazenove Capital Newton Investment Management Abrdn on behalf of Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities M&G Investments Rathbones Investment Management
Solicitors	Cleaver Fulton Rankin 50 Belford Street Belfast BT2 7FW Carson McDowell LLP Murray House 4 Murray St Belfast BT1 6DN

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)."

History

The Institution was founded by the public subscription of the citizens of Belfast in the early years of the nineteenth century. Members of the Institution are those who have subscribed to the Institution. Membership consists of two classes: Class I & Class II. The Class of membership held is dependent on the amount of the subscription made by the member. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution.

The foundation stone of the John Soane designed building was laid in July 1810. Belfast Academical Institution opened on 1 February 1814, as both a school for pupils and a college for students. On the occasion, Dr. William Drennan, a founder, spoke of what he envisaged as the main purpose of Inst, which was to *"diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life; not to have a good education only the portion of the rich and the noble, but as a patrimony of the whole people"*.

From 1831 until today, the School's full title has been, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). RBAI currently has over one thousand pupils on the main site and over one hundred pupils in the Preparatory Department, Inchmarlo. About one hundred and fifty new pupils enter RBAI every year from a wide variety of backgrounds: social, cultural and academic. The school encourages excellence and participation and ensures that every boy is supported pastorally so that he can perform to his potential.

The School became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2021 with charity registration number 108024.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

a) Purpose

The purpose of the School includes improving education standards, enhancing opportunities, and equipping young men to take their place in society.

b) Activities for achieving the purpose

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution carries out its purposes in the following ways:

- i. By establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast.
- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.
- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.
- iv. By providing sporting and recreational extra-curricular activities.
- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

c) Public Benefit Declaration

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include improved education standards, enhanced opportunities, and the equipping of young men to take their place in society. All of these benefit the public as a whole. The benefits are demonstrated through the examination results of students following testing, regular evaluation of services and the feedback from students and parents. The benefits are further demonstrated by the large number of boys from every section of society who progress to tertiary education or into employment on leaving school.

The beneficiaries of the charity's activities are the boys who receive their education at the School and society as a whole. There is no private benefit flowing from the purpose.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and Performance

- i. **Establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast**

The Inchmarlo Preparatory Department was established in 1917 and is continuing to provide an education for 5-11 year old boys.

- ii. **By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.**

The School opened in 1810 and is continuing as a post primary voluntary Grammar School on the College Square East site.

- iii. **By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.**

The School is currently providing education to equip pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

- iv. **By providing sporting and recreational facilities for extra-curricular activities.**

The School provides sporting and recreational facilities across a wide range of clubs and societies.

- v. **By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.**

The Board of Governors continues to invest in a series of capital projects to support the School to deliver its academic and co-curricular objectives.

The School does not receive capital grant aid from the Department of Education/Education Authority and is required to raise its own funds to support capital projects.

- vi. **By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.**

The School employs suitably qualified teachers to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The academic and co-curricular achievements are reported to the Board of Governors at every Board meeting. A report on the property held and the financial position of the School is also presented at every meeting of the Board of Governors.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Fundraising and generating income

RBAI is a category B Voluntary Grammar school. The School receives funding from the Department of Education towards teaching and learning, however it does not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the School estate. Philanthropy, income from investments and fees from parents form a critical element of the School's capital development plan. Fundraising campaigns are overseen by the RBAI Foundation Office.

Plans for future periods

In order to continue to offer the excellent education that the School has provided for over two hundred years, the Board of Governors has developed a long term vision for the school campus by identifying future needs and priorities of the whole school. The campus vision is to replace the swimming pool and dining hall and ensure all classrooms are fit for purpose. A planning application to deliver the campus vision was submitted to Belfast City Council on 20 February 2024.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 23-45 comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income of £899,392 before investment gains of £1,893,625 for the year. The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024, shows net assets of £42,874,001.

The grant funding from the Education Authority, at just over £6.6m, represents 63% of our total income of £10.6m.

The combined staff costs are £6.8m, equating to over 100% of Common Formula Grant funding, illustrating the challenge of funding the School. Total staff costs represent 69% of total expenditure.

The increase in fees reflects an annual inflationary increase along with stable pupil numbers at the Main School.

Income from the use of premises was restricted during the year due to the closure of the swimming pool in January 2024.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The major challenges faced by the Institution are threefold:

- Firstly, funding the revenue deficit for the Main School due the insufficient funding by the Department of Education
- Secondly, ensuring the Preparatory Department remains viable and
- Thirdly, funding both the maintenance and replacement of buildings on the School Campus.

The Board of Governors, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will continue to address all three issues and manage the financial affairs of the Institution to ensure a long and secure future for the School.

The Board receives regular financial reports including Management Accounts at every Board meeting and prepares budgets and capital plans on an annual basis.

Going Concern

The Board of Governors has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The Department of Education has confirmed interim Common Formula Funding allocation of £5,523,152 for the year 2024/25.

Investment powers and policies

The School's assets must be invested in accordance with the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the School's own 'Scheme of Endowment'. This is enacted by the Investment Committee through the School's Investment policy.

The purpose of the Investments is to provide the School with sufficient income to meet its needs whilst maintaining the value of the capital in real terms.

The School's investments were previously managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC). Following a tender process, the School transferred all its investments to Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

Reserves policy

The Governors believe that the School needs unrestricted reserves equivalent to the carrying value of fixed assets, six months working capital outgoing resources, annual capital replacement costs and specific capital project costs. The unrestricted reserves comprise of the general unrestricted reserve and the designated unrestricted reserve.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The recommended level of general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 is £36m comprising of six months working capital, budgeted capital replacement, capital development and investment reserve fund. The general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 were £26.684m. At this level, the Governors feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the School.

Amounts attributable to land and buildings and other fixed assets will be held in the designated unrestricted reserve, as these assets are held for the long term and are not readily disposable. In the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the Governors have allocated an amount of £14.103m as Designated Funds.

The Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed at least annually. The Governors actively considers the reserves target, in light of capital development and maintenance plans.

Tax Status

The School is registered as a charity for corporation tax purposes.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Institution is governed by the Scheme of Endowment. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution. Governors are appointed from within the membership of the Institution.

Appointment or election of Governors

Representative Governors are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Co-opted Governors, with a specialist interest in education are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Teacher Governors are elected from and by the body of permanent teaching staff in the organisation for a period of four years. Parent Governors are elected from and by the body of parents/guardians of pupils enrolled in the School, including the Preparatory Department, for a period of four years.

The Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Vacate
2024 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.2. D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.3. A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP4. C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)5. W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.6. J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.7. W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.8. W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>) |
| Vacate
2025 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. C. Finnegan, B.A.10. B.J. Cheevers, B.A.11. M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.12. R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (<i>Chairman</i>)13. C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.14. G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.15. J.E. Rutherford B.Sc., M.A.16. M W Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I. |
| Vacate
2026 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">17. A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.18. P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)19. S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.20. J.C. Kernohan, B.A.21. R.J.S. Price, F.C.A.22. W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.23. P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.24. J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A. |

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Co-opted Educational Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

- Sir D. Sterling KCB (vacate 2024)
- R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI) (vacate 2025)
- F.C. Eakin, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.G.C.E. (vacate 2026)

The Parent Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

- C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A. (vacate 2025)
- C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (vacate 2025)

The Teacher Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

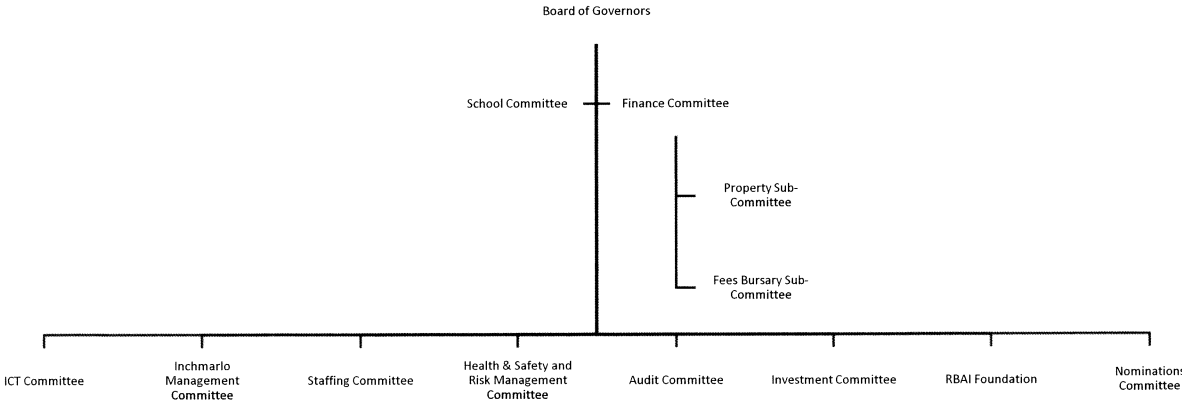
- S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E. (vacate 2025)
- J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E. (vacate 2025)

Newly appointed Governors receive induction training from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the Bursar. All Governors receive annual safeguarding and child protection training. A suite of training programmes is provided by the Education Authority for all Governors.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Governors is supported in carrying out its Governance role by Committees and Sub-Committees.

Governance Structure



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

School Committee

The School Committee has responsibility with regard to the educational and pastoral aspects of the School. In doing so the Committee reviews the process for the intake to Year 8; oversees teaching appointments; considers the on-going review and implementation of the School's Development Plan, reviews the provision of Pastoral Care, including Child Protection and Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.), and considers various educational initiatives, internal reviews and policies.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps under review all aspects of the School's finances through annual budgets and financial reports.

Property Sub-Committee

The Property Sub-Committee manages a wide range of capital development and maintenance matters pertaining to the School's estate.

Fees Bursary Sub-Committee

The Fees Bursary Sub-Committee administers the School's Fees Bursary Scheme. The Governors believe that no boy should be denied an education in the Secondary Department because of the financial circumstances of his parents or guardians. The Fees Bursary Scheme supports parents/guardians to meet the fees which the School charges.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considers the School's Annual Report and Financial Statements; receives the reports and recommendations of the internal and external auditors; and thereby reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the School's systems of internal control and financial management.

The internal auditor, ASM, reported that the Institution had a sound framework of control, which provided satisfactory assurance regarding the system of internal financial control. The external auditor, Moore (N.I.) LLP, reported that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee considers a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of individuals within the teaching and non-teaching staff, including internal and external appointments. It also determines salaries.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the School's fund managers against their set objectives of providing both revenue income - to make good the shortfall in Government funding - and capital growth – to ensure the School's financial stability into the future.

The Investment Committee oversaw the transfer of the School's investments from M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC) to Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

I.C.T. Committee

The I.C.T. Committee manages the rolling I.C.T. hardware and infrastructure requirements of Inchmarlo and the Main School. The Committee also oversees the formation of policies and distribution of resources to support learning.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee

The Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee provides an oversight of matters relating to the School's on-going risk management process and procedures across a range of aspects.

RBAI Foundation Committee

The RBAI Foundation Committee oversees fundraising and works closely with the Belfast Old Instonians Association and serves as the hub for communications with alumni and friends of the School around the world.

Inchmarlo Management Committee

The Inchmarlo Management Committee considers a diverse range of issues including: the educational provision and performance of the pupils, the School's Development Plan; pupil intake and enrolment numbers; administration of pastoral matters; finance and budgetary administration; and the maintenance of the Inchmarlo estate.

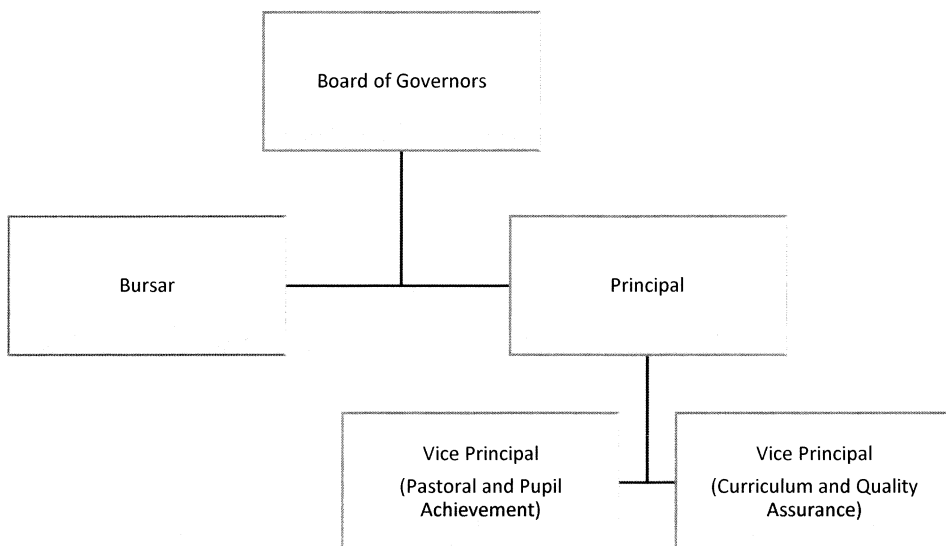
Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assessment), the Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar, has responsibility for implementing and managing the strategies approved by the Board of Governors.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024



Decision making

The Board of Governors determine the strategic direction and policies for the School. Responsibility is delegated to the Senior Leadership Team to implement the strategies and policies and ensure the School achieves its aims and objectives. The School Development Plan and associated budgets provide a framework for the implementation of the strategies.

Representatives of the Senior Leadership Team attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and provide written and verbal information regarding the progress of the implementation of the School Development Plan, budgetary updates, variances arising and any remedial action taken.

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

The Staffing Committee review the salaries of all staff on an annual basis. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board for any changes in salary, outside of agreed national agreements, including the salaries of the Senior Leadership Team. The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the setting of staff salaries.

Relationships with Related Parties

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Governors' Responsibilities

The Board of Governors of Royal Belfast Academical Institution is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the School and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Endowment, the Board or Governors, through its Chairman, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements the Board of Governors is 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 assume that the School will continue in operation.

The Board of Governors is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes the School objectives and how they are to be achieved, including the legal and administrative status of the School.

The Board of Governors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records to safeguard the assets of the School and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The Board of Governors has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Department of Education are used only for the purposes for which they have been given;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the School;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the School's resources and expenditure.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the members of the Board of Governors is aware at the time this report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- that the members of the Board have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Board Governors on 28 May 2024 by:



R.M. Howard - Chairman

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (the 'School') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Income and Expenditure Accounts, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the standards of accounting set by the Department of Education for Voluntary Grammar School's Statement of Accounts and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Proper accounting records have been kept by the School throughout the period;
- The School's whole system of internal control in the relevant financial period was such as to comply with the obligations placed on the Board of Governors by the Department of Education and we have not identified any significant weaknesses;
- Grants made by the Department of Education and funds from other sources reported in the relevant financial period have been applied in accordance with the Financial Memorandum and any other terms and requirements attached to them;
- Pension deductions made by the School in the relevant financial period were calculated correctly and have been paid over as required: and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable law, guidance issued by the Department of Education and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the School in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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 audit opinion.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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 School's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where legislation requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Governors' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the School'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 School or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We 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.

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

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

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the School and considered that the most significant to be 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).
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the School's internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with relevant laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal audit reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the School's Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the School's Governors 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 School and its Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (N.I.) LLP

Moore (N.I.) NI LLP

Senior Statutory Auditor
4th Floor - Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 5GB

Date: 28.05.2024

Moore (N.I.) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£	£
<u>Income from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	-	137,930	286,702	424,632	313,452
Charitable activities	3	8,654,009	-	-	8,654,009	7,961,386
Investments	6	797,407	19,187	31,766	848,360	931,516
Other sources	7	709,438	-	-	709,438	580,937
Total income		10,160,854	157,117	318,468	10,636,439	9,787,291
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Fundraising activities	8	144,120	1,240	161,806	307,166	255,732
Charitable activities	9	9,056,598	373,283	-	9,429,881	8,645,853
		9,200,718	374,523	161,806	9,737,047	8,901,585
Net income (expenditure) for the year		960,136	(217,406)	156,662	899,392	885,706
Gain on investments	16-17	1,576,708	-	316,917	1,893,625	(1,778,799)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023	21	24,146,713	14,320,396	1,613,875	40,080,984	40,974,077
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		26,683,557	14,102,990	2,087,454	42,874,001	40,080,984

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 27 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	13,454,450	13,453,825
Investments	16	25,298,049	23,854,424
Investment properties	17	920,000	470,000
Total fixed assets		39,672,499	37,778,249
Current assets			
Debtors	18	1,111,924	427,921
Cash at bank and in hand	19	3,645,162	2,946,636
Total current assets		4,757,086	3,374,557
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	1,555,584	1,071,822
Total current liabilities		1,555,584	1,071,822
Net current assets		3,201,502	2,302,735
Total assets less liabilities		42,874,001	40,080,984
Represented by:	21		
Unrestricted funds:			
General		26,683,557	24,146,713
Designated		14,102,990	14,320,396
Total Unrestricted Funds		40,786,547	38,467,109
Restricted funds:			
Trust Fund Accounts - Capital		499,523	182,606
Trust Fund Accounts - Revenue		311,951	292,118
RBAI Foundation		1,273,754	1,136,979
War Memorial Fund		2,225	2,171
Inst Hockey Limited		1	1
Total Restricted Funds		2,087,454	1,613,875
Total Funds		42,874,001	40,080,984

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring the charity keeps accounting records that comply with section 386 of the Act
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year.
- The notes on pages 27 to 45 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Governors on 28 May 2024



R.M. Howard
Chairman



J.C. Kernohan
Converor of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	22	224,074	564,078
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Payments for Fixed Assets		(373,908)	(1,435,816)
Income from estates properties		17,674	23,006
Proceeds from sale of land		5,000	-
Income from dividends		770,403	908,510
Income from bank interest		55,283	-
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities		474,452	(504,300)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	19	698,526	59,778
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		2,946,636	2,886,858
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		3,645,162	2,946,636

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Format and basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008."

1.2. Going Concern

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

1.3. Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside, at the discretion of the Governors, for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4. Recognition of Income

Income from fees is recognised at the beginning of the academic year in which it is receivable.

Income from hire of premises is included to the extent of the completion of the contract.

All investment income received is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is received.

The recurrent grant and other revenue grants received from the Department of Education are recognised in the period in which they are received/receivable.

1.5. Allocation of costs

Costs relating to the charity are all School costs. The costs associated with fundraising are the costs incurred by the RBAI Foundation office.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1.6. Pension Schemes

The two principal pension schemes for the School's staff are the Northern Ireland Teachers' Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the NITPS for teaching staff and to NILGOSC for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

The NITPS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The current regulations under which the scheme operates are the Teachers' Pension Regulations (NI) 1998 (as amended). The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions expenses as they are paid each year.

A full actuarial review of the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme was carried out during the 2018-19 year which resulted in the employer contribution rate increasing from 17.7% to 25.1% from 1 April 2019. Following a valuation carried out in 2020 the employer contribution rate will increase from 25.1% to 29.1% from 1 April 2024.

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by the NILGOSC Actuary, Aon plc. Employers' contribution rates have remained at 19.0% since 1 April 2023.

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions are expenses as they are paid each year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1.7. Tangible Fixed Assets

Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are stated in the Balance Sheet on the basis of historical cost, as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. The carrying value of the School's land is deemed to be nil, as the land held by the School was purchased or donated at a cost that is now immaterial for valuation purposes. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings and major adaptations to buildings are depreciated over 50 years. A review of building condition and useful lives is reassessed every 5 years. Capital Development costs are professional fees and expenditure incurred in the preparation for the construction of the campus vision. These costs are capitalised but will not be depreciated until construction of Phase 1 has been completed.

Capital Redevelopment

Costs relating to the capital development of the school site are included in the Balance Sheet at cost. This cost will be transferred to Land and Buildings when the development is complete. Depreciation is not charged on the capital development costs.

Equipment & Motor Vehicles

Equipment costing less than £10,000 per individual item is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated over their useful economic life as follows:

Motor vehicles	5 years;
General equipment	10 years;
Computer equipment	3 years.

1.8. Investments

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on the revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income is accounted for in the period in which it is received.

1.9. Investment Property

The School holds property for investment purposes. This is included at deemed market value at the balance sheet date.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1.10. Maintenance of Premises

The cost of routine maintenance, responsive and preventative, is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period that it is incurred.

1.11. Taxation

As a registered charity, the School does not make any provision for a tax liability as it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11 of CTA 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The School is not registered for VAT.

1.12. Employee benefits

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

1.13. Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes amounts held on deposit with the School's banks.

1.14. Liabilities and provisions

Provisions are recognised when the School has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

1.15. Debtors

Estimates are made in respect of the recoverable value of School fee debtors and other debtors. When assessing the level of provisions required, factors including current trading experience, historical experience and the ageing profile of debtors are considered.

1.16. Stock

The School does not hold stock for resale.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
RBAI Foundation	137,930	286,702	424,632	313,452
	<u>137,930</u>	<u>286,702</u>	<u>424,632</u>	<u>313,452</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Note	2024	2023
		Unrestricted – General	Total
		£	£
Education Authority Grants	4	6,648,046	6,112,728
School Activities	5	2,005,963	1,848,658
		<u>8,654,009</u>	<u>7,961,386</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. INCOME FROM EDUCATION AUTHORITY GRANTS

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Common Formula Funding Grant	5,530,448	73,813	5,604,261	5,599,053
Classroom Assistant Grant	209,753	98,390	308,143	251,230
Grant: Staff Cover	14,707	1,721	16,428	44,769
Grant: Teachers' Back Pay (Increment & NIC)	654,766	15,360	671,126	33,243
Grant: Non-Teaching payrise	21,636	2,305	23,941	5,277
Grant: COVID	-	-	-	56,656
Grant: SEND	9,055	-	9,055	17,383
Grant: Energy Price Mitigation	-	-	-	46,789
Other DE Grants	16,092	-	16,092	58,328
	<u>6,456,457</u>	<u>191,589</u>	<u>6,648,046</u>	<u>6,112,728</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. INCOME FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fees	1,278,833	565,750	1,844,583	1,716,941
Sundry income	73,165	85	73,250	42,417
Pupils' Text Books & Stationery	74,690	13,440	88,130	89,300
	<u>1,426,688</u>	<u>579,275</u>	<u>2,005,963</u>	<u>1,848,658</u>

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted - General	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	724,450	14,187	31,766	770,403	908,510
Bank Interest	55,283	-	-	55,283	-
Land & Property Rent	17,674	-	-	17,674	23,006
Proceeds from sale of land	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
	<u>797,407</u>	<u>19,187</u>	<u>31,766</u>	<u>848,360</u>	<u>931,516</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from use of premises	57,943	570	58,513	78,447
Sundry Income	71,866	-	71,866	57,734
Wraparound Care		137,302	137,302	29,472
Dining Halls	353,512	88,245	441,757	415,284
	<u>483,321</u>	<u>226,117</u>	<u>709,438</u>	<u>580,937</u>

8. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Note	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
		£		£	£	£
RBAI Foundation Staff Costs	10	110,514	-	-	110,514	100,194
RBAI Foundation Admin		33,606	-	-	33,606	25,382
RBAI Foundation Bursaries		-	-	105,622	105,622	88,908
Trust Fund Bursaries		-	-	1,634	1,634	1,700
RBAI Foundation Other		-	1,240	44,304	45,544	23,743
Trust Funds Expenditure		-	-	10,246	10,246	15,805
		<u>144,120</u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>161,806</u>	<u>307,166</u>	<u>255,732</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

9. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Note	Main School	Prep	Designated Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Grant funded	10	5,742,661	687,442	-	6,430,103	5,691,456
Staff Costs - School funded	10	107,148	110,580	-	217,788	150,298
School Costs	12	1,666,254	179,822	-	1,846,076	1,855,931
Other Costs	13	432,508	130,183	-	562,691	589,220
Depreciation	15	-	-	373,283	373,283	358,948
		<u>7,948,571</u>	<u>1,108,027</u>	<u>373,283</u>	<u>9,429,881</u>	<u>8,645,853</u>

10. STAFF COSTS

		2024	2024	2024	2023
		Main School	Prep	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Funded from Grant		5,742,661	687,442	6,430,103	5,691,456
Staff Costs - School funded		107,148	110,580	217,788	150,298
Staff Costs - Fundraising		110,514	-	110,454	100,194
		<u>5,960,323</u>	<u>798,022</u>	<u>6,758,345</u>	<u>5,941,948</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	5,079,434	4,466,116
Social Security Costs	515,748	459,162
Pension Costs	1,163,163	1,016,670
	<u>6,758,345</u>	<u>5,941,948</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The number of employees whose emoluments for the year exceeded £60,000 are shown in the table below (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employers' pension costs and employers' national insurance costs.)

	2024	2023
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1
£70,000 - £79,999	2	2
£80,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £99,999	-	-
£100,000 - £109,999	-	-
£110,000 - £119,999	1	1

	2024	2023
Average Staff Numbers	155	150

11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the School and are represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal, Vice Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assurance), Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar.

Emoluments of Key Management Personnel (including the Principal) are as follows:

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	No.	£	No.	£
Aggregate employee benefits of key management personnel	4	462,013	4	429,541

There were no payments, including expenses, to members of the Board of Governors during the year (2023: nil).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

12. SCHOOL COSTS ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Estates Costs	915,858	119,790	1,035,648	997,884
Academic Costs	411,902	29,923	441,825	421,167
Sports & Games	145,331	3,268	148,599	158,981
Administration & other costs	193,163	26,841	220,004	277,899
	<u>1,666,254</u>	<u>179,822</u>	<u>1,846,076</u>	<u>1,855,931</u>

13. OTHER COSTS

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Sesquicentenary	-	-	-	3,407
Charges for admissions process	8,626	-	8,626	12,214
Wraparound Care	-	12,891	12,891	7,112
Dining Hall	423,882	117,292	541,174	566,487
	<u>432,508</u>	<u>130,183</u>	<u>562,691</u>	<u>589,220</u>

14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2024	2023
	£	£
Internal Auditors' Remuneration	3,594	3,594
External Auditors' Remuneration	6,240	6,240
Auditors' Remuneration	<u>9,834</u>	<u>9,834</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings	Capital Redevelopment	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	18,428,625	92,628	32,000	104,084	18,657,337
Additions	55,940	317,968	-	-	373,908
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,484,565</u>	<u>410,596</u>	<u>32,000</u>	<u>104,084</u>	<u>19,031,245</u>
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	5,121,662	-	19,400	62,450	5,203,512
Depreciation	356,475	-	6,400	10,408	373,283
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,478,137</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,800</u>	<u>72,858</u>	<u>5,576,795</u>
NBV 31 March 2024	<u>13,006,428</u>	<u>410,596</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>31,226</u>	<u>13,454,450</u>
NBV 31 March 2023	<u>13,306,963</u>	<u>92,628</u>	<u>12,600</u>	<u>41,634</u>	<u>13,453,825</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

16. INVESTMENTS

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2023	23,854,424
Gain on investments	1,443,625
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	25,298,049
	<hr/>

Long-term investments are held in a mix of funds managed by two professional fund management groups. In addition, short-term surplus cash balances, as determined by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, are held in a money market fund.

The School's investments were previously managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC). Following a tender process, the School transferred all its investments to Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

The School also holds a 50% shareholding valued at £1 in Inst Hockey Limited.

17. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2023	470,000
Gain on investments	450,000
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	920,000
	<hr/>

The School holds property for investment purposes. This is included at deemed market value at the balance sheet date.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

18. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
School Fee Debtors	431,178	397,815
Other Debtors	657,038	18,679
Prepayments	23,708	11,427
	<u>1,111,924</u>	<u>427,921</u>

19. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2023	Cashflow	2024
	£	£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand	2,946,636	698,526	3,645,162
	<u>2,946,636</u>	<u>698,526</u>	<u>3,645,162</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

20. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	111,278	110,073
Accruals and sundry creditors	170,600	267,713
Pupil Deposits	92,720	93,685
Deferred Income	29,266	50,850
Payroll Accruals	976,440	358,980
Balances held for:		
School No. 2 Account	115,036	135,914
Scout Group	4,267	7,312
Inchmarlo No. 2 Account	55,977	47,295
	<u>1,555,584</u>	<u>1,071,822</u>

Deferred income relates to the income for hire of premises invoiced in 2023/24, which relates to the period 2024/25. The 2022/23 deferred income has been fully released and the 2023/24 deferred income relates only to income newly deferred in the year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

21. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Unrestricted			Restricted			Total
	General	Designated	Trust Funds Capital	Trust Funds Revenue	RBAI Foundation	Inst Hockey Limited	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2023	24,146,713	14,320,396	182,606	292,118	1,136,979	1	40,080,984
Income	10,160,854	157,117	-	31,712	286,702	-	10,636,439
Expenditure	9,200,718	374,523	-	11,879	149,927	-	9,737,047
Gain on investments	1,576,708	-	316,917	-	-	-	1,893,625
Balance as at 31 March 2024	26,683,557	14,102,990	499,523	311,951	1,273,754	1	42,874,001

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

22. CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
Net income before investment gains	899,392	885,706
Elimination of non operating cashflows		
Investment income	(848,360)	(931,516)
Depreciation	373,283	358,948
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(684,003)	97,487
Increase in creditors	<u>483,762</u>	<u>153,453</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities	224,074	564,078

23. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no reportable post balance sheet events.

24. PENSIONS

The School participates in two defined benefit pension schemes, the Northern Ireland Teacher's Pension Scheme (NITPS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) for teaching staff and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Pension Committee (NILGOSC) for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

NITPS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year. The School contribution rate for the year commencing 1 April 2024 will be 29.1% (2023/24: 25.1%).

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by NILGOSC's Actuary, Aon Hewitt.

The Fund's assets at 31 March 2022 were £10,231.1m and the past service liabilities were £9,226.7m, corresponding to a surplus of £1,004.4m and a funding level of 111%. Employer's contribution rates decreased from 19.5% to 19.0% at 1 April 2023.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Key assumptions for 2022 were:

	2022	2019
CPI inflation rate	2.3%	2.1%
Rate of increase in pensionable salaries	3.8%	3.6%
Investment returns	4.2%	4.1%

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions are recognised as they are paid each year.

25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Commitments at 31 March	-	-

A tender is in progress for the demolition of the swimming pool. This process had not concluded at the time of signing the accounts.

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. There are no disclosable related part transactions.

Three members of the Board of Governors also serve as Directors of Inst. Hockey Limited.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

27. SOFA COMPARATIVES

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies\	2	-	75,959	237,493	313,452
Charitable activities	3	7,961,386	-	-	7,961,386
Investments	7	888,833	11,330	31,353	931,516
Other sources	8	580,937	-	-	580,937
Total income		9,431,156	87,289	268,846	9,787,291
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Fundraising activities	9	125,576	-	130,156	255,732
Charitable activities	10	8,286,905	358,948	-	8,645,853
		8,412,481	358,948	130,156	8,901,585
Net income (expenditure) for the year		1,018,675	(271,659)	138,690	885,706
(Loss)Gain on investments	17	(1,778,799)	-	-	(1,778,799)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	22	24,906,837	14,592,055	1,475,185	40,974,077
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		24,146,713	14,320,396	1,613,875	40,080,984

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Annual report



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION
ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)."

History

The Institution was founded by the public subscription of the citizens of Belfast in the early years of the nineteenth century. Members of the Institution are those who have subscribed to the Institution. Membership consists of two classes: Class I & Class II. The Class of membership held is dependent on the amount of the subscription made by the member. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution.

The foundation stone of the John Soane designed building was laid in July 1810. Belfast Academical Institution opened on 1 February 1814, as both a school for pupils and a college for students. On the occasion, Dr. William Drennan, a founder, spoke of what he envisaged as the main purpose of Inst, which was to *"diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life; not to have a good education only the portion of the rich and the noble, but as a patrimony of the whole people"*.

From 1831 until today, the School's full title has been, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). RBAI currently has over one thousand pupils on the main site and over one hundred pupils in the Preparatory Department, Inchmarlo. About one hundred and fifty new pupils enter RBAI every year from a wide variety of backgrounds: social, cultural and academic. The school encourages excellence and participation and ensures that every boy is supported pastorally so that he can perform to his potential.

The School became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2021 with charity registration number 108024.

Objectives and activities

a) Purpose

The purpose of the School includes improving education standards, enhancing opportunities, and equipping young men to take their place in society.

b) Activities for achieving the purpose

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution carries out its purposes in the following ways:

- i. By establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast.
- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.
- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.
- iv. By providing sporting and recreational extra-curricular activities.
- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

c) Public Benefit Declaration

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include improved education standards, enhanced opportunities, and the equipping of young men to take their place in society. All of these benefit the public as a whole. The benefits are demonstrated through the examination results of students following testing, regular evaluation of services and the feedback from students and parents. The benefits are further demonstrated by the large number of boys from every section of society who progress to tertiary education or into employment on leaving school.

The beneficiaries of the charity's activities are the boys who receive their education at the School and society as a whole. There is no private benefit flowing from the purpose.

Achievements and Performance

i. Establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast

The Inchmarlo Preparatory Department was established in 1917 and is continuing to provide an education for 5-11 year old boys.

ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.

The School opened in 1810 and is continuing as a post primary voluntary Grammar School on the College Square East site.

iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

The School is currently providing education to equip pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

iv. By providing sporting and recreational facilities for extra-curricular activities.

The School provides sporting and recreational facilities across a wide range of clubs and societies.

v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.

The Board of Governors continues to invest in a series of capital projects to support the School to deliver its academic and co-curricular objectives.

The School does not receive capital grant aid from the Department of Education/Education Authority and is required to raise its own funds to support capital projects.

vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The School employs suitably qualified teachers to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The academic and co-curricular achievements are reported to the Board of Governors at every Board meeting. A report on the property held and the financial position of the School is also presented at every meeting of the Board of Governors.

Fundraising and generating income

RBAI is a category B Voluntary Grammar school. The School receives funding from the Department of Education towards teaching and learning, however it does not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the School estate. Philanthropy, income from investments and fees from parents form a critical element of the School's capital development plan. Fundraising campaigns are overseen by the RBAI Foundation Office.

Plans for future periods

In order to continue to offer the excellent education that the School has provided for over two hundred years, the Board of Governors has developed a long term vision for the school campus by identifying future needs and priorities of the whole school. The campus vision is to replace the swimming pool and dining hall and ensure all classrooms are fit for purpose. A planning application to deliver the campus vision was submitted to Belfast City Council on 20 February 2024.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 23-45 comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income of £899,392 before investment gains of £1,893,625 for the year. The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024, shows net assets of £42,874,001.

The grant funding from the Education Authority, at just over £6.6m, represents 63% of our total income of £10.6m.

The combined staff costs are £6.8m, equating to over 100% of Common Formula Grant funding, illustrating the challenge of funding the School. Total staff costs represent 69% of total expenditure.

The increase in fees reflects an annual inflationary increase along with stable pupil numbers at the Main School.

Income from the use of premises was restricted during the year due to the closure of the swimming pool in January 2024.

The major challenges faced by the Institution are threefold:

- Firstly, funding the revenue deficit for the Main School due the insufficient funding by the Department of Education
- Secondly, ensuring the Preparatory Department remains viable and
- Thirdly, funding both the maintenance and replacement of buildings on the School Campus.

The Board of Governors, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will continue to address all three issues and manage the financial affairs of the Institution to ensure a long and secure future for the School.

The Board receives regular financial reports including Management Accounts at every Board meeting and prepares budgets and capital plans on an annual basis.

Going Concern

The Board of Governors has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The Department of Education has confirmed interim Common Formula Funding allocation of £5,523,152 for the year 2024/25.

Investment powers and policies

The School's assets must be invested in accordance with the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the School's own 'Scheme of Endowment'. This is enacted by the Investment Committee through the School's Investment policy.

The purpose of the Investments is to provide the School with sufficient income to meet its needs whilst maintaining the value of the capital in real terms.

The School's investments were previously managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC). Following a tender process, the School transferred all its investments to Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

Reserves policy

The Governors believe that the School needs unrestricted reserves equivalent to the carrying value of fixed assets, six months working capital outgoing resources, annual capital replacement costs and specific capital project costs. The unrestricted reserves comprise of the general unrestricted reserve and the designated unrestricted reserve.

The recommended level of general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 is £36m comprising of six months working capital, budgeted capital replacement, capital development and investment reserve fund. The general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 were £26.684m. At this level, the Governors feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the School.

Amounts attributable to land and buildings and other fixed assets will be held in the designated unrestricted reserve, as these assets are held for the long term and are not readily disposable. In the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the Governors have allocated an amount of £14.103m as Designated Funds.

The Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed at least annually. The Governors actively considers the reserves target, in light of capital development and maintenance plans.

Tax Status

The School is registered as a charity for corporation tax purposes.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Institution is governed by the Scheme of Endowment. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution. Governors are appointed from within the membership of the Institution.

Appointment or election of Governors

Representative Governors are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Co-opted Governors, with a specialist interest in education are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Teacher Governors are elected from and by the body of permanent teaching staff in the organisation for a period of four years. Parent Governors are elected from and by the body of parents/guardians of pupils enrolled in the School, including the Preparatory Department, for a period of four years.

The Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Vacate
2024 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.2. D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.3. A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP4. C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)5. W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.6. J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.7. W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.8. W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>) |
| Vacate
2025 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. C. Finnegan, B.A.10. B.J. Cheevers, B.A.11. M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.12. R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (<i>Chairman</i>)13. C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.14. G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.15. J.E. Rutherford B.Sc., M.A.16. M W Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I. |
| Vacate
2026 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">17. A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.18. P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)19. S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.20. J.C. Kernohan, B.A.21. R.J.S. Price, F.C.A.22. W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.23. P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.24. J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A. |

The Co-opted Educational Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

Sir D. Sterling KCB	(vacate 2024)
R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)	(vacate 2025)
F.C. Eakin, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2026)

The Parent Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.	(vacate 2025)
C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.	(vacate 2025)

The Teacher Representative Governors at March 2024 are as follows:

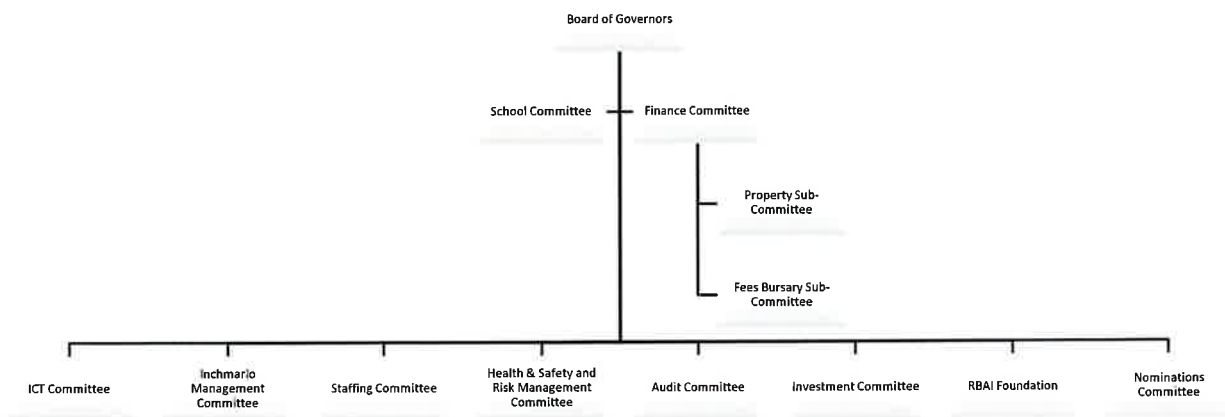
S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)
J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)

Newly appointed Governors receive induction training from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the Bursar. All Governors receive annual safeguarding and child protection training. A suite of training programmes is provided by the Education Authority for all Governors.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Governors is supported in carrying out its Governance role by Committees and Sub-Committees.

Governance Structure



School Committee

The School Committee has responsibility with regard to the educational and pastoral aspects of the School. In doing so the Committee reviews the process for the intake to Year 8; oversees teaching appointments; considers the on-going review and implementation of the School's Development Plan, reviews the provision of Pastoral Care, including Child Protection and Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.), and considers various educational initiatives, internal reviews and policies.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps under review all aspects of the School's finances through annual budgets and financial reports.

Property Sub-Committee

The Property Sub-Committee manages a wide range of capital development and maintenance matters pertaining to the School's estate.

Fees Bursary Sub-Committee

The Fees Bursary Sub-Committee administers the School's Fees Bursary Scheme. The Governors believe that no boy should be denied an education in the Secondary Department because of the financial circumstances of his parents or guardians. The Fees Bursary Scheme supports parents/guardians to meet the fees which the School charges.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considers the School's Annual Report and Financial Statements; receives the reports and recommendations of the internal and external auditors; and thereby reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the School's systems of internal control and financial management.

The internal auditor, ASM, reported that the Institution had a sound framework of control, which provided satisfactory assurance regarding the system of internal financial control. The external auditor, Moore (N.I.) LLP, reported that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee considers a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of individuals within the teaching and non-teaching staff, including internal and external appointments. It also determines salaries.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the School's fund managers against their set objectives of providing both revenue income - to make good the shortfall in Government funding - and capital growth – to ensure the School's financial stability into the future.

The Investment Committee oversaw the transfer of the School's investments from M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC) to Cazenove Capital and Newton Investment Management.

I.C.T. Committee

The I.C.T. Committee manages the rolling I.C.T. hardware and infrastructure requirements of Inchmarlo and the Main School. The Committee also oversees the formation of policies and distribution of resources to support learning.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee

The Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee provides an oversight of matters relating to the School's on-going risk management process and procedures across a range of aspects.

RBAI Foundation Committee

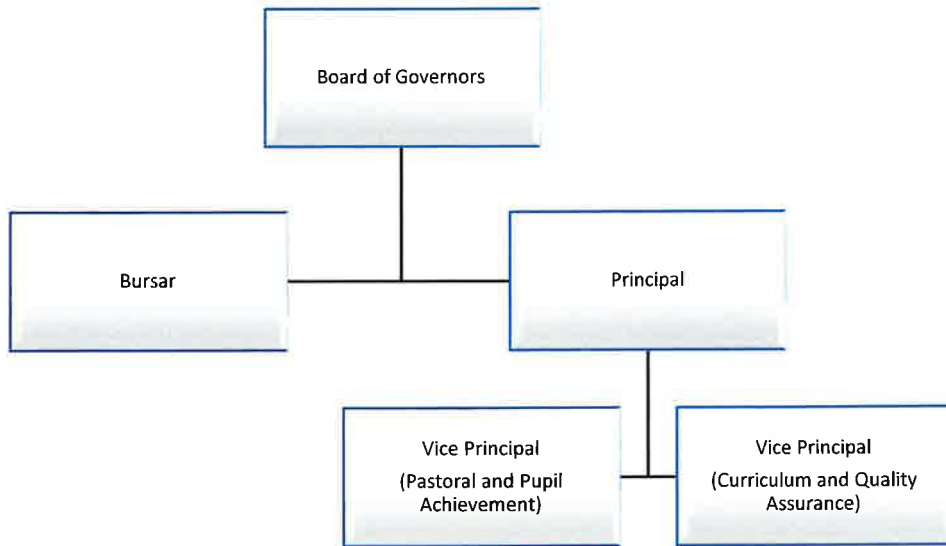
The RBAI Foundation Committee oversees fundraising and works closely with the Belfast Old Instonians Association and serves as the hub for communications with alumni and friends of the School around the world.

Inchmarlo Management Committee

The Inchmarlo Management Committee considers a diverse range of issues including: the educational provision and performance of the pupils, the School's Development Plan; pupil intake and enrolment numbers; administration of pastoral matters; finance and budgetary administration; and the maintenance of the Inchmarlo estate.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assessment), the Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar, has responsibility for implementing and managing the strategies approved by the Board of Governors.



Decision making

The Board of Governors determine the strategic direction and policies for the School. Responsibility is delegated to the Senior Leadership Team to implement the strategies and policies and ensure the School achieves its aims and objectives. The School Development Plan and associated budgets provide a framework for the implementation of the strategies.

Representatives of the Senior Leadership Team attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and provide written and verbal information regarding the progress of the implementation of the School Development Plan, budgetary updates, variances arising and any remedial action taken.

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

The Staffing Committee review the salaries of all staff on an annual basis. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board for any changes in salary, outside of agreed national agreements, including the salaries of the Senior Leadership Team. The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the setting of staff salaries.

Relationships with Related Parties

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Statement of Governors' Responsibilities

The Board of Governors of Royal Belfast Academical Institution is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the School and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Endowment, the Board or Governors, through its Chairman, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements the Board of Governors is 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 assume that the School will continue in operation.

The Board of Governors is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes the School objectives and how they are to be achieved, including the legal and administrative status of the School.

The Board of Governors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records to safeguard the assets of the School and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The Board of Governors has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Department of Education are used only for the purposes for which they have been given;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the School;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the School's resources and expenditure.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT


For the year ended 31 March 2024

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the members of the Board of Governors is aware at the time this report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- that the members of the Board have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Board Governors on 28 May 2024 by:



R.M. Howard - Chairman

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Annual return

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (the 'School') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Income and Expenditure Accounts, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the standards of accounting set by the Department of Education for Voluntary Grammar School's Statement of Accounts and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Proper accounting records have been kept by the School throughout the period;
- The School's whole system of internal control in the relevant financial period was such as to comply with the obligations placed on the Board of Governors by the Department of Education and we have not identified any significant weaknesses;
- Grants made by the Department of Education and funds from other sources reported in the relevant financial period have been applied in accordance with the Financial Memorandum and any other terms and requirements attached to them;
- Pension deductions made by the School in the relevant financial period were calculated correctly and have been paid over as required: and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable law, guidance issued by the Department of Education and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the School in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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 audit opinion.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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 School's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where legislation requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Governors' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the School'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 School or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We 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.

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

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

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the School and considered that the most significant to be 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).
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the School's internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with relevant laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal audit reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the School's Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the School's Governors 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 School and its Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (N.I.) LLP

Moore (N.I.) NI LLP

Senior Statutory Auditor
4th Floor - Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 5GB

Date: *28.05.2024*

Moore (N.I.) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Accounts

Registered Charity Number: 108024



THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Board of Governors 2022/23

R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (*Chairman*)

C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (*Vice Chairman*)

W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (*Hon. Secretary*)

A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.

B.J. Cheevers, B.A.

I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.

D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.

A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP

P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)

C. Finnegan, B.A.

M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.

S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.

C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.

W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.

J.C. Kernohan, B.A.

K.O. Latimer, O.B.E., M.A., Dip.Lib.Stud., F.C.L.I.P.

W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.

G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.

J.E. Rutherford, B.Sc., M.A.

M. W. Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I.

P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.

J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.

W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.

J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Co-opted Governors

Sir D. Sterling, KCB

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)

Parent Governors

C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.

Teacher Governors

S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.

J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Principal

J. Williamson, M.A. (Oxon), N.P.Q.H.

Bursar and Secretary to the Board of Governors

C. Moore, B.A., F.C.A.

Registered Office

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution
College Square East
Belfast
BT1 6DL

Charity Number 108024

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS GOVERNORS AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

External Auditor	Moore (N.I.) LLP 7 Donegall Square North Belfast BT1 5GB
Internal Auditor	ASM Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN
Bank	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
Investment Managers	Abrdn on behalf of Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities M&G Investments Rathbones Investment Management
Solicitors	Cleaver Fulton Rankin 50 Belford Street Belfast BT2 7FW

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)."

History

The Institution was founded by the public subscription of the citizens of Belfast in the early years of the nineteenth century. Members of the Institution are those who have subscribed to the Institution. Membership consists of two classes: Class I & Class II. The Class of membership held is dependent on the amount of the subscription made by the member. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution.

The foundation stone of the John Soane designed building was laid in July 1810. Belfast Academical Institution opened on 1 February 1814, as both a school for pupils and a college for students. On the occasion, Dr. William Drennan, a founder, spoke of what he envisaged as the main purpose of Inst, which was to *"diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life; not to have a good education only the portion of the rich and the noble, but as a patrimony of the whole people"*.

From 1831 until today, the School's full title has been, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). RBAI currently has over one thousand pupils on the main site and over one hundred pupils in the Preparatory Department, Inchmarlo. About one hundred and fifty new pupils enter RBAI every year from a wide variety of backgrounds: social, cultural and academic. The school encourages excellence and participation and ensures that every boy is supported pastorally so that he can perform to his potential.

The School became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2021 with charity registration number 108024.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

a) Purpose

The purpose of the School includes improving education standards, enhancing opportunities, and equipping young men to take their place in society.

b) Activities for achieving the purpose

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution carries out its purposes in the following ways:

- i. By establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast.
- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.
- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.
- iv. By providing sporting and recreational extra-curricular activities.
- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

c) Public Benefit Declaration

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include improved education standards, enhanced opportunities, and the equipping of young men to take their place in society. All of these benefit the public as a whole. The benefits are demonstrated through the examination results of students following testing, regular evaluation of services and the feedback from students and parents. The benefits are further demonstrated by the large number of boys from every section of society who progress to tertiary education or into employment on leaving school.

The beneficiaries of the charity's activities are the boys who receive their education at the School and society as a whole. There is no private benefit flowing from the purpose.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and Performance

- i. **Establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast**

The Inchmarlo Preparatory Department was established in 1917 and is continuing to provide an education for 5-11 year old boys.

- ii. **By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.**

The School opened in 1810 and is continuing as a post primary voluntary Grammar School on the College Square East site.

- iii. **By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.**

The School is currently providing education to equip pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

- iv. **By providing sporting and recreational facilities for extra-curricular activities.**

The School provides sporting and recreational facilities across a wide range of clubs and societies.

- v. **By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.**

The Board of Governors continues to invest in a series of capital projects to support the School to deliver its academic and co-curricular objectives.

The School does not receive capital grant aid from the Department of Education/Education Authority and is required to raise its own funds to support capital projects.

- vi. **By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.**

The School employs suitably qualified teachers to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The academic and co-curricular achievements are reported to the Board of Governors at every Board meeting.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Fundraising and generating income

RBAI is a category B Voluntary Grammar school. The School receives funding from the Department of Education towards teaching and learning, however it does not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the School estate. Philanthropy, income from investments and fees from parents form a critical element of the School's capital development plan. Fundraising campaigns are overseen by the RBAI Foundation Office.

In 2018, the Excellence for All campaign was launched. The campaign supported three priorities:

- Transforming Our Campus
- Sporting Excellence
- Social Mobility

Plans for future periods

In order to continue to offer the excellent education that the School has provided for over two hundred years, the Board of Governors has developed a long term vision for the school campus by identifying future needs and priorities of the whole school. The campus vision is to replace the swimming pool and dining hall and ensure all classrooms are fit for purpose.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 23-43 comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income before investment losses of £885,706 for the year. The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023, shows net assets of £40,080,984.

The grant funding from the Education Authority, at just over £6.1million, represents 62% of our total income of £9.8million.

The combined staff costs are £5.9million, equating to 109% of Common Formula Grant funding, illustrating the challenge of funding the School. Total staff costs represent 70.6% of total expenditure.

The increase in fees reflects an annual inflationary increase along with stable pupil numbers at the Main School.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Income from the use of premises was higher than even pre-Pandemic income, mainly due to an increased use of the swimming pool.

The major challenges faced by the Institution are threefold:

- Firstly, funding the revenue deficit for the Main School due the insufficient funding by the Department of Education
- Secondly, ensuring the Preparatory Department remains viable and
- Thirdly, funding both the maintenance and replacement of buildings on the School Campus.

The Board of Governors, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will continue to address all three issues and manage the financial affairs of the Institution to ensure a long and secure future for the School.

The Board receives regular financial reports including Management Accounts at every Board meeting and prepares budgets, including cash flows and capital plans on an annual basis.

Going Concern

The Board of Governors has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The Department of Education has confirmed funding of £5,441,009 for the year 2023/24.

Investment powers and policies

The School's assets must be invested in accordance with the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the School's own 'Scheme of Endowment'. This is enacted by the Investment Committee through the School's Investment policy.

The purpose of the Investments is to provide the School with sufficient income to meet its needs whilst maintaining the value of the capital in real terms.

The Schools investments are managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Reserves policy

The Governors believe that the School needs unrestricted reserves equivalent to the carrying value of fixed assets, six months working capital outgoing resources, annual capital replacement costs and specific capital project costs. In addition, the School requires investment reserve income to make up shortfalls in the School's annual budget.

The recommended level of general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 is £37m comprising of six months working capital, budgeted capital replacement, capital development and investment reserve fund. The general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 were £24.1m. At this level, the Governors feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the School without major capital projects and are in the process of developing an action plan to increase reserves to meet future capital development. The unrestricted reserves of £38.4m comprise net current assets of £2.3m which are readily available to fund working capital requirements and the immediate capital needs of the School. The remaining unrestricted reserves comprise investments which could be realised to support the reserves policy.

Currently, the School has no borrowings and has a strong asset base, which underpins its activities, however, the Governors recognise that it is imperative that the School works towards building reserves towards the required capital development and maintenance programmes for the School.

Amounts attributable to land and buildings and other fixed assets will be held as designated reserves as these assets are held for the long term and are not readily disposable. In the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the Governors have allocated an amount of £14.3m as Designated Funds.

At the year-end there were capital project budgets approved by the Governors totalling £0.4m and a review of the School Estate is ongoing to ensure the estate is fit for purpose for the next 50 years.

The Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed at least annually. The Governors actively considers the reserves target, in light of capital development and maintenance plans.

At 31 March 2023, the School's reserves were £40,080,984 (2022:£ 40,974,077). This comprised of £1,613,875 (2022:£ 1,475,185) restricted funds and £38,467,109 (2022: £39,498,892) unrestricted funds.

Tax Status

The School is registered as a charity for corporation tax purposes.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Institution is governed by the Scheme of Endowment. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution. Governors are appointed from within the membership of the Institution.

Appointment or election of Governors

Representative Governors are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Co-opted Governors, with a specialist interest in education are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Teacher Governors are elected from and by the body of permanent teaching staff in the organisation for a period of 4 years. Parent Governors are elected from and by the body of parents/guardians of pupils enrolled in the School, including the Preparatory Department, for a period of 4 years.

The Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Vacate
2023 | } | 1. A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I. |
| | | 2. P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.) |
| | | 3. S.T. Gowdy, LL.B. |
| | | 4. J.C. Kernohan, B.A. |
| | | 5. K.O. Latimer, O.B.E., M.A., Dip.Lib.Stud., F.C.L.I.P. |
| | | 6. W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S. |
| | | 7. P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D. |
| | | 8. J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A. |
| Vacate
2024 | } | 9. I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med. |
| | | 10. D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B. |
| | | 11. A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP |
| | | 12. C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (<i>Vice Chairman</i>) |
| | | 13. W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C. |
| | | 14. J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I. |
| | | 15. W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S. |
| | | 16. W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>) |
| Vacate
2025 | } | 17. C. Finnegan, B.A. |
| | | 18. B.J. Cheevers, B.A. |
| | | 19. M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A. |
| | | 20. R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (<i>Chairman</i>) |
| | | 21. C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A. |
| | | 22. G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D. |
| | | 23. J.E. Rutherford B.Sc., M.A. |
| | | 24. M W Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I. |

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Co-opted Educational Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)	(vacate 2025)
Sir D. Sterling KCB	(vacate 2024)

The Parent Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.	(vacate 2025)
C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.	(vacate 2025)

The Teacher Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)
J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)

Newly appointed Governors receive induction training from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the Bursar. All Governors receive annual safeguarding and child protection training. A suite of training programmes is provided by the Education Authority for all Governors.

Organisational Structure

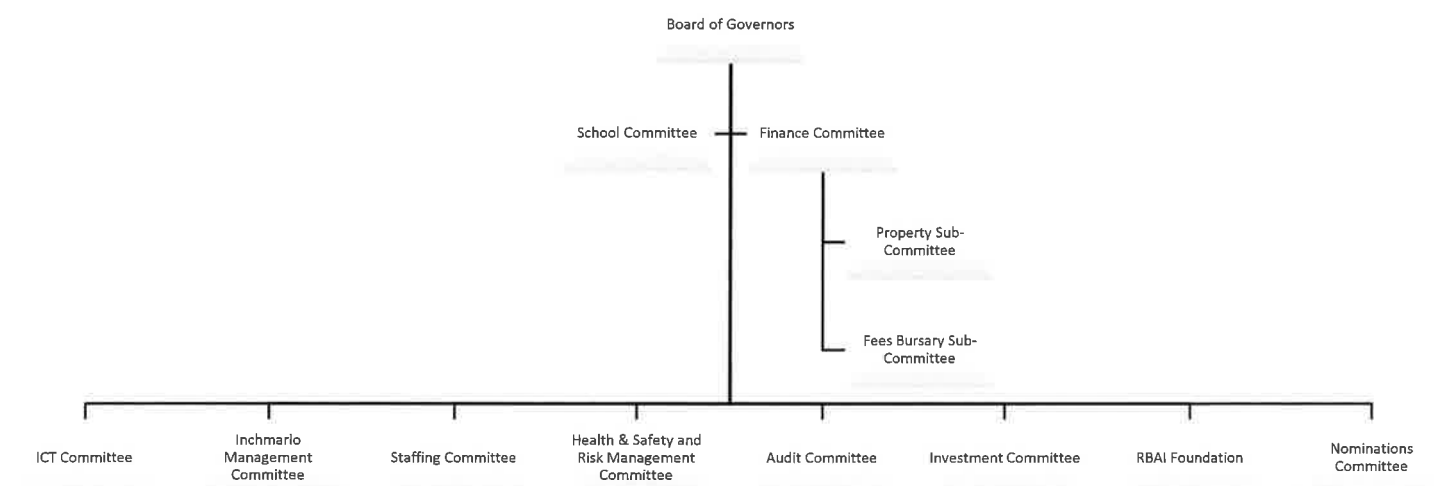
The Board of Governors is supported in carrying out its Governance role by Committees and Sub-Committees.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Governance Structure



School Committee

The School Committee has responsibility with regard to the educational and pastoral aspects of the School. In doing so the Committee reviews the process for the intake to Year 8; oversees teaching appointments; considers the on-going review and implementation of the School's Development Plan, reviews the provision of Pastoral Care, including Child Protection and Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.), and considers various educational initiatives, internal reviews and policies.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps under review all aspects of the School's finances through annual budgets and financial reports.

Property Sub-Committee

The Property Sub-Committee manages a wide range of capital development and maintenance matters pertaining to the School's estate.

Fees Bursary Sub-Committee

The Fees Bursary Sub-Committee administers the School's fees Bursary Scheme. The Governors believe that no boy should be denied an education in the Secondary Department because of the financial circumstances of his parents or guardians. The Fees Bursary Scheme supports parents/guardians to meet the fees which the School charges.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considers the School's Annual Report and Financial Statements; receives the reports and recommendations of the internal and external auditors; and thereby reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the School's systems of internal control and financial management.

The internal auditor, ASM, reported that the Institution had a sound framework of control, which provided satisfactory assurance regarding the system of internal financial control. The external auditor, Moore (N.I.) LLP, reported that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee considers a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of individuals within the teaching and non-teaching staff, including internal and external appointments and also considers the annual review of salaries.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the School's fund managers against their set objectives of providing both revenue income - to make good the shortfall in Government funding - and capital growth – to ensure the School's financial stability into the future.

I.C.T. Committee

The I.C.T. Committee manages the rolling I.C.T. hardware and infrastructure requirements of Inchmarlo and the Main School. The Committee also oversees the formation of policies and distribution of resources to support learning.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee

The Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee provides an oversight of matters relating to the School's on-going risk management process and procedures across a diverse range of aspects. The Committee continues to monitor the response to the on-going pandemic.

RBAI Foundation Committee

The RBAI Foundation Committee oversees fundraising and works closely with the Belfast Old Instonians Association and serves as the hub for communications with alumni and friends of the School around the world.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

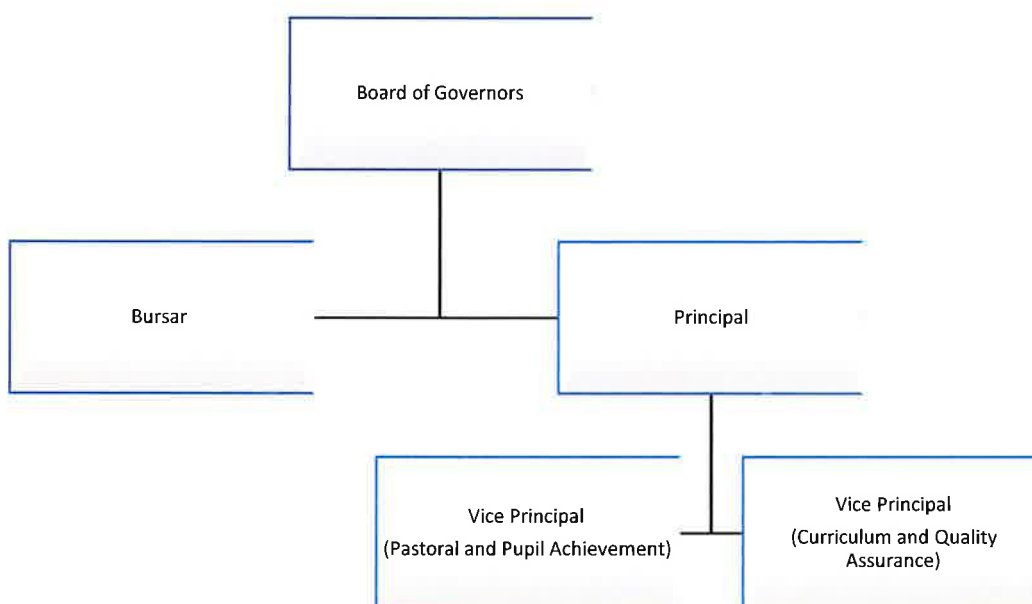
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Inchmarlo Management Committee

The Inchmarlo Management Committee considers a diverse range of issues including: the educational provision and performance of the pupils, the School's Development Plan; pupil intake and enrolment numbers; administration of pastoral matters; finance and budgetary administration; and the maintenance of the Inchmarlo estate.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assessment), the Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar, has responsibility for implementing and managing the strategies approved by the Board of Governors.



Decision making

The Board of Governors determine the strategic direction and policies for the School. Responsibility is delegated to the Senior Leadership Team to implement the strategies and policies and ensure the School achieves its aims and objectives. The School Development Plan and associated budgets provide a framework for the implementation of the strategies.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and provide written and verbal information regarding the progress of the implementation of the School Development Plan, budgetary updates, variances arising and any remedial action taken.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

The Staffing Committee review the salaries of all staff on an annual basis. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board for any changes in salary, outside of agreed national agreements, including the salaries of the Senior Leadership Team. The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the setting of staff salaries.

Relationships with Related Parties

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Statement of Governors Responsibilities

The Board of Governors of Royal Belfast Academical Institution is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the School and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Endowment, the Board, through its Chair, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements the Board is 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 assume that the School will continue in operation.

The Board is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes the School objectives and how they are to be achieved, including the legal and administrative status of the School.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records to safeguard assets of the School and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Board has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Department of Education are used only for the purposes for which they have been given;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the School;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the School's resources and expenditure.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the members of the Board is aware at the time this report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- that the members of the Board have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Governors on 22 May 2023 by:



R.M. Howard
Chairman

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (the 'School') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Income and Expenditure Accounts, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at 31st March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the standards of accounting set by the Department of Education for Voluntary Grammar School's Statement of Accounts and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Proper accounting records have been kept by the School throughout the period;
- The School's whole system of internal control in the relevant financial period was such as to comply with the obligations placed on the Board of Governors by the Department of Education and we have not identified any significant weaknesses;
- Grants made by the Department of Education and funds from other sources reported in the relevant financial period have been applied in accordance with the Financial Memorandum and any other terms and requirements attached to them;
- Pension deductions made by the School in the relevant financial period were calculated correctly and have been paid over as required: and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable law, guidance issued by the Department of Education and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the School in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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 audit opinion.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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 School's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where legislation requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Governors' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the School'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 School or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We 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.

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

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

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the School and considered that the most significant to be 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).
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the School's internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with relevant laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal audit reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the School's Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the School's Governors 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 School and its Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (NI) LLP

Moore NI LLP

Senior Statutory Auditor
4th Floor - Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 5GB

Date: 22 May 2023

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies\	2	-	75,959	237,493	313,452	435,077
Charitable activities	3	7,961,386	-	-	7,961,386	7,844,273
Investments	7	888,833	11,330	31,353	931,516	834,223
Other sources	8	580,937	-	-	580,937	512,874
Total income		9,431,156	87,289	268,846	9,787,291	9,626,447
Expenditure on:						
Fundraising activities	9	125,576	-	130,156	255,732	219,773
Charitable activities	10	8,286,905	358,948	-	8,645,853	8,077,129
		8,412,481	358,948	130,156	8,901,585	8,296,902
Net income (expenditure) for the year		1,018,675	(271,659)	138,690	885,706	1,329,545
(Loss)Gain on investments	17	(1,778,799)	-	-	(1,778,799)	1,156,745
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	22	24,906,837	14,592,055	1,475,185	40,974,077	38,487,787
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		24,146,713	14,320,396	1,613,875	40,080,984	40,974,077

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	16	13,453,825	12,376,957
Investments	17	23,854,424	25,633,223
Investment properties	18	470,000	470,000
Total fixed assets		37,778,249	38,480,180
Current assets			
Debtors	19	427,921	525,408
Cash at bank and in hand	20	2,946,636	2,886,858
Total current assets		3,374,557	3,412,266
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	1,071,822	918,369
Total current liabilities		1,071,822	918,369
Net current assets		2,302,735	2,493,897
Total assets less liabilities		40,080,984	40,974,077
Represented by:	22		
Unrestricted funds:			
General		24,146,713	24,906,837
Designated		14,320,396	14,592,055
Total Unrestricted Funds		38,467,109	39,498,892
Restricted funds:			
Trust Fund Accounts - Capital		182,606	182,606
Trust Fund Accounts - Revenue		292,118	278,322
RBAI Foundation		1,136,979	1,012,138
War Memorial Fund		2,171	2,118
Inst Hockey Limited		1	1
Total Restricted Funds		1,613,875	1,475,185
Total Funds		40,080,984	40,974,077

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Governors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring the charity keeps accounting records that comply with section 386 of the Act
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year.
- The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Governors on 22 May 2023



R.M. Howard
Chairman

S.T. Gowdy
Convenor of the School Committee



J.C. Kernohan
Convenor of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	23	564,078	1,082,619
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Payments for Fixed Assets		(1,435,816)	(318,196)
Income from estates properties		23,006	21,568
Income from dividends		908,510	812,655
Cost of investment acquisition		-	-
Net cash (outflow) inflow from investing activities		(504,300)	516,027
Change in cash and cash equivalents	20	59,778	1,598,646
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		2,886,858	1,288,212
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		2,946,636	2,886,858

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Format and basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008."

1.2. Going Concern

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

1.3. Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Governors in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside, at the discretion of the Governors, for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4. Recognition of Income

Income from fees is recognised at the beginning of the academic year in which it is receivable.

Income from hire of premises is included to the extent of the completion of the contract.

All investment income received is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is received.

The recurrent grant and other revenue grants received from the Department of Education are recognised in the period in which they are received/receivable.

Other Grants includes amounts receivable under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to reimburse the School for the wages of certain employees who were furloughed during the period but who remained on the School's payroll. As this scheme involves a transfer of resources from government to the entity, it meets the definition of a government grant.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1.5. Pension Schemes

The two principal pension schemes for the School's staff are the Northern Ireland Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (NITSS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) for teaching staff and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

The NITSS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The current regulations under which the scheme operates are the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations (NI) 1998 (as amended). The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions expenses as they are paid each year.

A full actuarial review of the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme was carried out during the 2018-19 year which resulted in the employer contribution rate increasing from 17.7% to 25.1% from 1 April 2019.

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by the Committee's Actuary, Aon plc. Employers' contribution rates have remained at 19.5% since 1 April 2020 but will decrease to 19.0% from 1 April 2023.

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions are expenses as they are paid each year.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1.6. Tangible Fixed Assets

Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are stated in the Balance Sheet on the basis of historical cost, as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. The value of the School's land is deemed to be nil, as the land held by the School was purchased or donated at a cost that is now immaterial for valuation purposes. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings and major adaptations to buildings are depreciated over 50 years. A review of building condition and useful lives is reassessed every 5 years.

Equipment & Motor Vehicles

Equipment costing less than £10,000 per individual item is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated over their useful economic life as follows:

Motor vehicles	5 years;
General equipment	10 years;
Computer equipment	3 years.

1.7. Investments

Investments are included at closing mid-market value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on the revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income is accounted for in the period in which it is received.

1.8. Investment Property

Investment properties that are held for the generation of rental income are valued at current market value. Donated land that is not used for school activities is valued as agricultural land, at the current market value.

1.9. Maintenance of Premises

The cost of routine maintenance, responsive and preventative, is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period that it is incurred.

1.10. Taxation

As a registered charity, the School is an exempt from tax.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Accordingly, the School is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11 of CTA 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The School is not registered for VAT.

1.11. Employee benefits

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

1.12. Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes amounts held on deposit with the School's bank.

1.13. Liabilities and provisions

Provisions are recognised when the School has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

1.14. Debtors

Estimates are made in respect of the recoverable value of School fee debtors and other debtors. When assessing the level of provisions required, factors including current trading experience, historical experience and the ageing profile of debtors are considered.

1.15. Stock

The School does not hold stock for resale.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Trust Fund Accounts	-	-	-	300
RBAI Foundation	75,959	237,493	313,452	434,777
	75,959	237,493	313,452	435,077

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Note	2023	2022
		Unrestricted - General	Total
		£	£
Education Authority Grants	4	6,112,728	6,100,981
Other Grants	5	-	253
School Activities	6	1,848,658	1,743,039
		7,961,386	7,844,273

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

4. INCOME FROM EDUCATION AUTHORITY GRANTS

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Common Formula Funding Grant	5,515,548	83,505	5,599,053	5,552,331
Classroom Assistant Grant	180,466	70,764	251,230	208,638
Grant: Staff Cover	44,696	73	44,769	66,848
Grant: Teachers' Back Pay (Increment & NIC)	33,243	-	33,243	84,377
Grant: Non-Teaching payrise	5,277	-	5,277	-
Grant: COVID	50,190	6,466	56,656	125,605
Grant: SEND	17,383	-	17,383	25,596
Grant: Energy Price Mitigation	46,789	-	46,789	-
Other DE Grants	49,881	8,447	58,328	37,586
	<u>5,943,473</u>	<u>169,255</u>	<u>6,112,728</u>	<u>6,100,981</u>

5. INCOME FROM OTHER GRANTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	253
	<u>-</u>	<u>253</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6. INCOME FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Fees	1,166,588	550,353	1,716,941	1,689,444
Sundry income	42,320	97	42,417	35,022
Pupils' Text Books & Stationery	74,900	14,400	89,300	18,573
	<u>1,238,808</u>	<u>564,850</u>	<u>1,848,658</u>	<u>1,743,039</u>

7. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted - General	Unrestricted - Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends	865,827	11,330	31,353	908,510	812,655
Land & Property Rent	23,006	-	-	23,006	21,568
	<u>888,833</u>	<u>11,330</u>	<u>31,353</u>	<u>931,516</u>	<u>834,223</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

8. INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from use of premises	78,127	320	78,447	63,149
Sundry Income	57,734	-	57,734	30,300
Wraparound Care	-	29,472	29,472	33,129
Dining Halls	357,560	57,724	415,284	386,296
	<u>493,421</u>	<u>87,516</u>	<u>580,937</u>	<u>512,874</u>

9. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

		2023	2023	2023	2022
	Note	General	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
RBAI Foundation Staff Costs	11	100,194	-	100,194	86,675
RBAI Foundation Admin		25,382	-	25,382	18,863
RBAI Foundation Bursaries		-	88,908	88,908	81,274
Trust Fund Bursaries		-	1,700	1,700	1,545
RBAI Foundation Other		-	23,743	23,743	19,586
Trust Funds Expenditure		-	15,805	15,805	11,830
		<u>125,576</u>	<u>130,156</u>	<u>255,732</u>	<u>219,773</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

10. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Note	Main School	Prep	Designated Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Grant funded	11	5,108,098	583,358	-	5,691,456	5,699,594
Staff Costs - School funded	11	101,249	49,049	-	150,298	160,518
School Costs	13	1,689,107	166,824	-	1,855,931	1,428,630
Other Costs	14	480,715	108,505	-	589,220	429,870
Depreciation	16	-	-	358,948	358,948	358,517
		<u>7,379,169</u>	<u>907,736</u>	<u>358,948</u>	<u>8,645,853</u>	<u>8,077,129</u>

11. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs – Funded from Grant	5,108,098	583,358	5,691,456	5,699,594
Staff Costs - School funded	101,249	49,049	150,298	160,518
Staff Costs - Fundraising	100,194	-	100,194	86,675
	<u>5,309,541</u>	<u>632,407</u>	<u>5,941,948</u>	<u>5,946,787</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	4,466,116	4,471,113
Social Security Costs	459,162	449,213
Pension Costs	1,016,670	1,026,461
	<u>5,941,948</u>	<u>5,946,787</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The number of employees whose emoluments for the year exceeded £60,000 are shown in the table below (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employers' pension costs and employers' national insurance costs.)

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	1	-
£70,000 - £79,999	2	3
£80,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £99,999	-	-
£100,000 - £109,999	-	-
£110,000 - £119,999	1	1

	2023	2022
Average Staff Numbers	150	147

12. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the School and are represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal, Vice Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assurance), Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar.

Emoluments of Key Management Personnel (including the Principal) are as follows:

	2023 No.	2023 £	2022 No.	2022 £
Aggregate employee benefits of key management personnel	4	429,541	4	447,625

There were no payments, including expenses, to members of the Board of Governors during the year (2022: nil).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31 March 2023

13. SCHOOL COSTS ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Estates Costs	908,849	89,036	997,885	800,021
Academic Costs	385,021	36,146	421,167	331,083
Sports & Games	152,559	6,422	158,981	112,061
Administration & other costs	242,678	35,220	277,988	185,465
	<u>1,689,107</u>	<u>166,824</u>	<u>1,855,931</u>	<u>1,428,630</u>

14. OTHER COSTS

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Main School	Prep	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Sesquicentenary	3,407	-	3,407	5,007
External charges for admissions process	12,214	-	12,214	9,980
Wraparound Care	-	7,112	7,112	6,498
Dining Hall	465,094	101,393	566,487	408,385
	<u>480,715</u>	<u>108,505</u>	<u>589,220</u>	<u>429,870</u>

15. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2023	2022
	£	£
Internal Auditors' Remuneration	3,594	3,120
External Auditors' Remuneration	6,240	6,240
Auditors' Remuneration	<u>9,834</u>	<u>9,360</u>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Buildings	Capital Redevelopment	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	17,085,437	-	32,000	104,084	17,221,521
Additions	1,343,188	92,628	-	-	1,435,816
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	18,428,625	92,628	32,000	104,084	18,657,337
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	4,779,522	-	13,000	52,042	4,844,564
Depreciation	342,140	-	6,400	10,408	358,948
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	5,121,662	-	19,400	62,450	5,203,512
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NBV 31 March 2023	13,306,963	92,628	12,600	41,634	13,453,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NBV 31 March 2022	12,305,915	-	19,000	52,042	12,376,957
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

17. INVESTMENTS

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2022	25,633,223
Additions	-
Disposals	-
Loss on investments	(1,778,799)
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	23,854,424
	<hr/>

Long-term investments are held in a mix of funds managed by three professional fund management groups. In addition, short-term surplus cash balances, as determined by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, are held in a high-quality bond fund.

The School's investments are managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and the Abrdn on behalf of Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC).

The School also holds a 50% shareholding of £1 in Inst Hockey Limited.

18. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Total
Market Value	£
At 1 April 2022	470,000
Additions	-
Disposals	-
Gain on investments	-
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	470,000
	<hr/>

The School holds property at Ballylesson and Bladon Park as investment property. The property at Bladon Park is made up of two apartments, rented out on a commercial basis. The property at Ballylesson is agricultural land leased on a commercial basis. There is also a portfolio of ground rents that has been donated to the School. The investment property has been valued by two Chartered Surveyors that are members of the Board of Governors.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

19. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
School Fee Debtors	397,815	410,530
Other Debtors	18,679	67,762
Prepayments	11,427	47,116
	<u>427,921</u>	<u>525,408</u>

20. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2022	Cashflow	2023
	£	£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>2,886,858</u>	<u>59,778</u>	<u>2,946,636</u>

21. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors	110,073	175,985
Accruals and sundry creditors	267,713	93,522
Pupil Deposits	93,685	88,205
Deferred Income	50,850	43,561
Payroll Accruals	358,980	357,796
Balances held for:		
School No. 2 Account	135,914	113,142
Scout Group	7,312	1,896
Inchmarlo No. 2 Account	47,295	44,262
	<u>1,071,822</u>	<u>918,369</u>

Deferred income relates to the income for hire of premises invoiced in 2022/23, which relates to the period 2023/24.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

22. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Unrestricted			Restricted			Total
	General	Designated	Trust Funds Capital	Trust Funds Revenue	RBAI Foundation	Inst Hockey Limited	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2022	24,906,837	14,592,055	182,606	278,322	1,012,138	1	40,974,077
Income	9,431,156	87,289	-	31,300	237,493	-	9,787,291
Expenditure	(8,412,481)	(358,948)	-	(17,504)	(112,652)	-	(8,901,585)
Loss on investments	(1,778,799)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,778,799)
Balance as at 31 March 2023	24,146,713	14,320,396	182,606	292,118	1,136,979	1	40,080,894

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
Net income before investment gains	885,706	1,329,545
Elimination of non operating cashflows		
Investment income	(931,516)	(834,223)
Depreciation	358,948	358,517
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	82,958
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	97,487	153,309
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	153,453	(7,487)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	564,078	1,082,619

24. POST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION EVENTS

There were no material post Statement of Financial Position events.

25. PENSIONS

The School participates in two defined benefit pension schemes, the Northern Ireland Teacher's Superannuation Scheme (NITSS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) schemes. Payments are made to the Northern Ireland Teachers Pension Scheme (NITPS) for teaching staff and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) for support staff. These are both independently administered schemes.

NITSS is an unfunded defined benefit, voluntary membership scheme administered by the Department of Education. The NITPS is a multi-employer scheme and the School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The NITPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year. The School contribution rate for the year commencing 1 April 2023 will be 25.1% (2022/23: 25.1%).

NILGOSC is a defined benefit multi-employer scheme which is externally funded. The NILGOSC Fund is valued every three years by an independent actuary. The latest valuation was carried out on 31 March 2022 by the Committee's Actuary, Aon Hewitt.

The Fund's assets at 31 March 2022 were £10,231.1m and the past service liabilities were £9,226.7m, corresponding to a surplus of £1,004.4m and a funding level of 111%. Employer's contribution rates will decrease from 19.5% to 19.0% at 1 April 2023.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Key assumptions for 2022 were:

	2022	2019
CPI inflation rate	2.3%	2.1%
Rate of increase in pensionable salaries	3.8%	3.6%
Investment returns	4.2%	4.1%

The NILGOSC scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme. The Board is of the opinion that the contributions to the scheme should be treated as a defined contribution scheme because, at present, no future liability rests with the School, other than its normal monthly contributions and, at present, the contributions to the scheme are set at a common level for employers within the same bands in the scheme. The contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Commitments at 31 March	-	1,020,475

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. There are no disclosable related part transactions.

Three members of the Board of Governors also serve as Directors of Inst. Hockey Limited.

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Annual report

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Institution's Scheme of Endowment and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)."

History

The Institution was founded by the public subscription of the citizens of Belfast in the early years of the nineteenth century. Members of the Institution are those who have subscribed to the Institution. Membership consists of two classes: Class I & Class II. The Class of membership held is dependent on the amount of the subscription made by the member. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution.

The foundation stone of the John Soane designed building was laid in July 1810. Belfast Academical Institution opened on 1 February 1814, as both a school for pupils and a college for students. On the occasion, Dr. William Drennan, a founder, spoke of what he envisaged as the main purpose of Inst, which was to *"diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life; not to have a good education only the portion of the rich and the noble, but as a patrimony of the whole people"*.

From 1831 until today, the School's full title has been, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). RBAI currently has over one thousand pupils on the main site and over one hundred pupils in the Preparatory Department, Inchmarlo. About one hundred and fifty new pupils enter RBAI every year from a wide variety of backgrounds: social, cultural and academic. The school encourages excellence and participation and ensures that every boy is supported pastorally so that he can perform to his potential.

The School became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2021 with charity registration number 108024.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

a) Purpose

The purpose of the School includes improving education standards, enhancing opportunities, and equipping young men to take their place in society.

b) Activities for achieving the purpose

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution carries out its purposes in the following ways:

- i. By establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast.
- ii. By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.
- iii. By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.
- iv. By providing sporting and recreational extra-curricular activities.
- v. By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- vi. By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

c) Public Benefit Declaration

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include improved education standards, enhanced opportunities, and the equipping of young men to take their place in society. All of these benefit the public as a whole. The benefits are demonstrated through the examination results of students following testing, regular evaluation of services and the feedback from students and parents. The benefits are further demonstrated by the large number of boys from every section of society who progress to tertiary education or into employment on leaving school.

The beneficiaries of the charity's activities are the boys who receive their education at the School and society as a whole. There is no private benefit flowing from the purpose.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and Performance

- i. **Establishing and maintaining a preparatory school for 5 to 11-year-old boys in Belfast**

The Inchmarlo Preparatory Department was established in 1917 and is continuing to provide an education for 5-11 year old boys.

- ii. **By establishing and maintaining a post primary voluntary grammar school for 1,050 boys in Central Belfast.**

The School opened in 1810 and is continuing as a post primary voluntary Grammar School on the College Square East site.

- iii. **By providing education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, and thereby equipping pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.**

The School is currently providing education to equip pupils to sit the prescribed examinations for admission to tertiary education, to enter the labour market and generally to enable pupils to take their place in society as good citizens.

- iv. **By providing sporting and recreational facilities for extra-curricular activities.**

The School provides sporting and recreational facilities across a wide range of clubs and societies.

- v. **By repairing and keeping in good order repair and condition the School estate so that it is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.**

The Board of Governors continues to invest in a series of capital projects to support the School to deliver its academic and co-curricular objectives.

The School does not receive capital grant aid from the Department of Education/Education Authority and is required to raise its own funds to support capital projects.

- vi. **By employing teaching staff to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.**

The School employs suitably qualified teachers to deliver the curricula of the preparatory school and the post primary grammar school.

The academic and co-curricular achievements are reported to the Board of Governors at every Board meeting.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Fundraising and generating income

RBAI is a category B Voluntary Grammar school. The School receives funding from the Department of Education towards teaching and learning, however it does not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the School estate. Philanthropy, income from investments and fees from parents form a critical element of the School's capital development plan. Fundraising campaigns are overseen by the RBAI Foundation Office.

In 2018, the Excellence for All campaign was launched. The campaign supported three priorities:

- Transforming Our Campus
- Sporting Excellence
- Social Mobility

Plans for future periods

In order to continue to offer the excellent education that the School has provided for over two hundred years, the Board of Governors has developed a long term vision for the school campus by identifying future needs and priorities of the whole school. The campus vision is to replace the swimming pool and dining hall and ensure all classrooms are fit for purpose.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 23-43 comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income before investment losses of £885,706 for the year. The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023, shows net assets of £40,080,984.

The grant funding from the Education Authority, at just over £6.1million, represents 62% of our total income of £9.8million.

The combined staff costs are £5.9million, equating to 109% of Common Formula Grant funding, illustrating the challenge of funding the School. Total staff costs represent 70.6% of total expenditure.

The increase in fees reflects an annual inflationary increase along with stable pupil numbers at the Main School.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Income from the use of premises was higher than even pre-Pandemic income, mainly due to an increased use of the swimming pool.

The major challenges faced by the Institution are threefold:

- Firstly, funding the revenue deficit for the Main School due the insufficient funding by the Department of Education
- Secondly, ensuring the Preparatory Department remains viable and
- Thirdly, funding both the maintenance and replacement of buildings on the School Campus.

The Board of Governors, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, will continue to address all three issues and manage the financial affairs of the Institution to ensure a long and secure future for the School.

The Board receives regular financial reports including Management Accounts at every Board meeting and prepares budgets, including cash flows and capital plans on an annual basis.

Going Concern

The Board of Governors has considered the School's forecasts and projections. The Governors have a reasonable expectation that the School has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School, therefore, continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The Department of Education has confirmed funding of £5,441,009 for the year 2023/24.

Investment powers and policies

The School's assets must be invested in accordance with the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the School's own 'Scheme of Endowment'. This is enacted by the Investment Committee through the School's Investment policy.

The purpose of the Investments is to provide the School with sufficient income to meet its needs whilst maintaining the value of the capital in real terms.

The Schools investments are managed by three fund Managers: M&G Investments, Rathbones Investment Management and Abrdn on behalf of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC).

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Reserves policy

The Governors believe that the School needs unrestricted reserves equivalent to the carrying value of fixed assets, six months working capital outgoing resources, annual capital replacement costs and specific capital project costs. In addition, the School requires investment reserve income to make up shortfalls in the School's annual budget.

The recommended level of general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 is £37m comprising of six months working capital, budgeted capital replacement, capital development and investment reserve fund. The general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 were £24.1m. At this level, the Governors feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the School without major capital projects and are in the process of developing an action plan to increase reserves to meet future capital development. The unrestricted reserves of £38.4m comprise net current assets of £2.3m which are readily available to fund working capital requirements and the immediate capital needs of the School. The remaining unrestricted reserves comprise investments which could be realised to support the reserves policy.

Currently, the School has no borrowings and has a strong asset base, which underpins its activities, however, the Governors recognise that it is imperative that the School works towards building reserves towards the required capital development and maintenance programmes for the School.

Amounts attributable to land and buildings and other fixed assets will be held as designated reserves as these assets are held for the long term and are not readily disposable. In the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the Governors have allocated an amount of £14.3m as Designated Funds.

At the year-end there were capital project budgets approved by the Governors totalling £0.4m and a review of the School Estate is ongoing to ensure the estate is fit for purpose for the next 50 years.

The Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed at least annually. The Governors actively considers the reserves target, in light of capital development and maintenance plans.

At 31 March 2023, the School's reserves were £40,080,984 (2022:£ 40,974,077). This comprised of £1,613,875 (2022:£ 1,475,185) restricted funds and £38,467,109 (2022: £39,498,892) unrestricted funds.

Tax Status

The School is registered as a charity for corporation tax purposes.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Institution is governed by the Scheme of Endowment. A Board of Governors is appointed by the Members of the Institution to govern and manage the Institution. Governors are appointed from within the membership of the Institution.

Appointment or election of Governors

Representative Governors are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Co-opted Governors, with a specialist interest in education are appointed to serve as for a term of three years. Teacher Governors are elected from and by the body of permanent teaching staff in the organisation for a period of 4 years. Parent Governors are elected from and by the body of parents/guardians of pupils enrolled in the School, including the Preparatory Department, for a period of 4 years.

The Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Vacate
2023 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A.I. Adair, LL.B., F.R.C.S.I.2. P.J. Dolaghan, P.G.C.E., (I.T.)3. S.T. Gowdy, LL.B.4. J.C. Kernohan, B.A.5. K.O. Latimer, O.B.E., M.A., Dip.Lib.Stud., F.C.L.I.P.6. W.M.W. McDowell, F.R.I.C.S.7. P. Shields, B.Sc., P.G.D.8. J.J. Wylie, M.A., F.C.A. |
| Vacate
2024 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. I.S. Corry, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Orth), Dip.Sports.Med.10. D.S. Croft, M.Sc., B.A., M.I.B.11. A.G. Dick MB BCh MRCP12. C.D. Gowdy, LL.B., (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)13. W.J. Keith, O.B.E., M.Sc., B.Ed., Dip.G.&C.14. J.D. Stelfox, M.B.E., D.L., R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.I.15. W.A. Wilson, F.R.I.C.S.16. W.R. Wilson, LL.B. (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>) |
| Vacate
2025 | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none">17. C. Finnegan, B.A.18. B.J. Cheevers, B.A.19. M. Fitch, LL.B., F.C.A.20. R.M. Howard, B.Sc., F.C.A. (<i>Chairman</i>)21. C.J. Johnston, B.A., F.C.A.22. G. Parkes, M.B.A., Chartered Fellow C.I.P.D.23. J.E. Rutherford B.Sc., M.A.24. M W Shaw BEng. M.B.A. C.Eng. F.I.Struct.E. M.I.C.E. M.I.E.I. |

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Co-opted Educational Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

R.W. Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)	(vacate 2025)
Sir D. Sterling KCB	(vacate 2024)

The Parent Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

C. Holmes B.Sc., M.A., F.C.A.	(vacate 2025)
C. Moran B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.	(vacate 2025)

The Teacher Representative Governors at March 2023 are as follows:

S. Archibald, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)
J.B. Peak, B.A., P.G.C.E.	(vacate 2025)

Newly appointed Governors receive induction training from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the Bursar. All Governors receive annual safeguarding and child protection training. A suite of training programmes is provided by the Education Authority for all Governors.

Organisational Structure

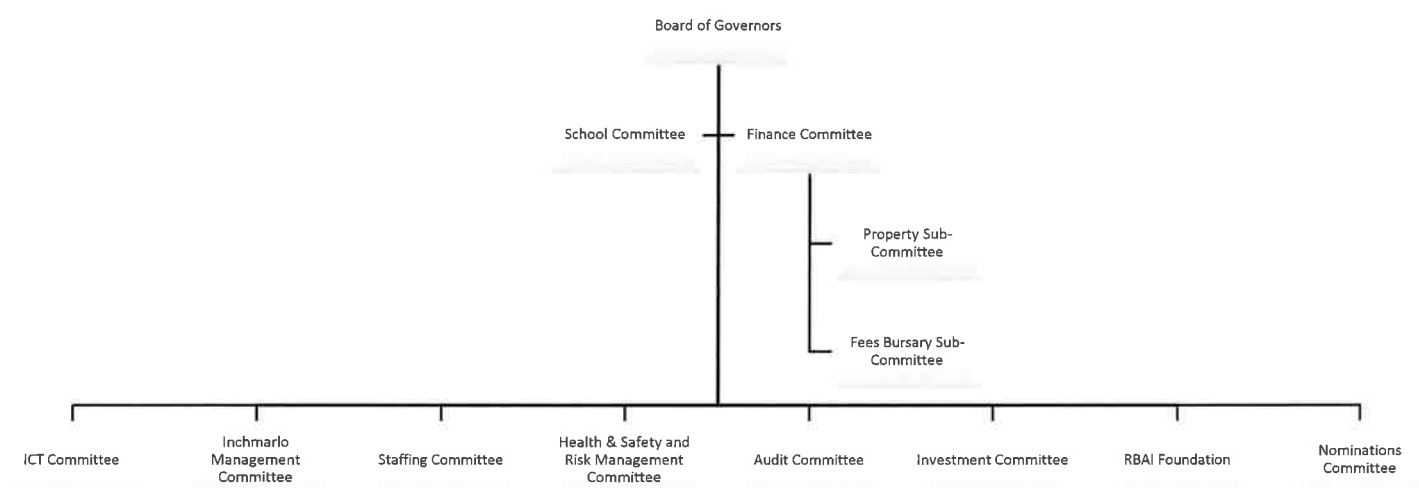
The Board of Governors is supported in carrying out its Governance role by Committees and Sub-Committees.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Governance Structure



School Committee

The School Committee has responsibility with regard to the educational and pastoral aspects of the School. In doing so the Committee reviews the process for the intake to Year 8; oversees teaching appointments; considers the on-going review and implementation of the School's Development Plan, reviews the provision of Pastoral Care, including Child Protection and Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.), and considers various educational initiatives, internal reviews and policies.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps under review all aspects of the School's finances through annual budgets and financial reports.

Property Sub-Committee

The Property Sub-Committee manages a wide range of capital development and maintenance matters pertaining to the School's estate.

Fees Bursary Sub-Committee

The Fees Bursary Sub-Committee administers the School's fees Bursary Scheme. The Governors believe that no boy should be denied an education in the Secondary Department because of the financial circumstances of his parents or guardians. The Fees Bursary Scheme supports parents/guardians to meet the fees which the School charges.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considers the School's Annual Report and Financial Statements; receives the reports and recommendations of the internal and external auditors; and thereby reviews the effectiveness and efficiency of the School's systems of internal control and financial management.

The internal auditor, ASM, reported that the Institution had a sound framework of control, which provided satisfactory assurance regarding the system of internal financial control. The external auditor, Moore (N.I.) LLP, reported that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee considers a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment of individuals within the teaching and non-teaching staff, including internal and external appointments and also considers the annual review of salaries.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee monitors the performance of the School's fund managers against their set objectives of providing both revenue income - to make good the shortfall in Government funding - and capital growth – to ensure the School's financial stability into the future.

I.C.T. Committee

The I.C.T. Committee manages the rolling I.C.T. hardware and infrastructure requirements of Inchmarlo and the Main School. The Committee also oversees the formation of policies and distribution of resources to support learning.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee

The Health, Safety & Risk Management Committee provides an oversight of matters relating to the School's on-going risk management process and procedures across a diverse range of aspects. The Committee continues to monitor the response to the on-going pandemic.

RBAI Foundation Committee

The RBAI Foundation Committee oversees fundraising and works closely with the Belfast Old Instonians Association and serves as the hub for communications with alumni and friends of the School around the world.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

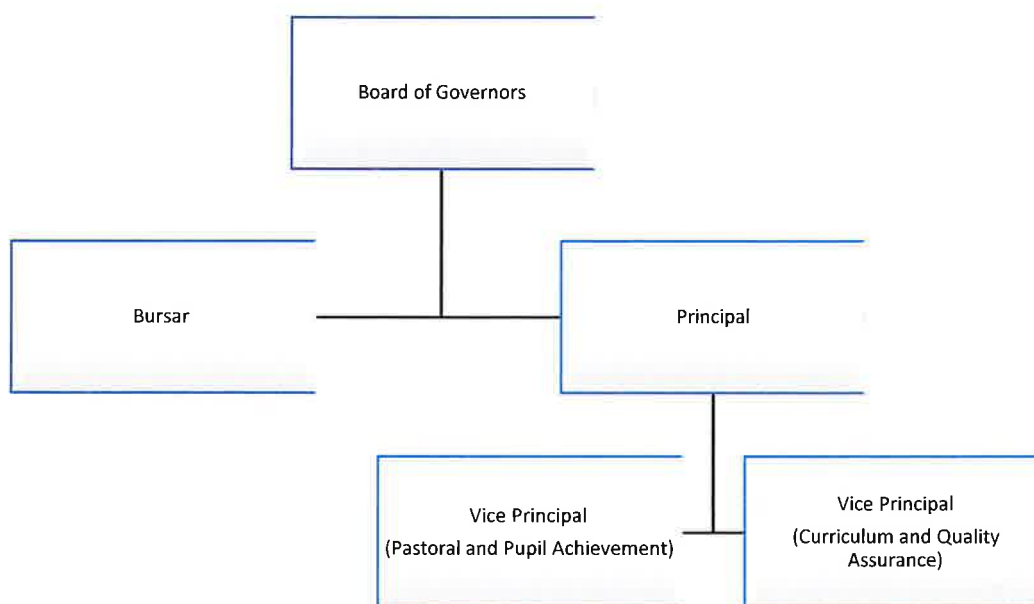
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Inchmarlo Management Committee

The Inchmarlo Management Committee considers a diverse range of issues including: the educational provision and performance of the pupils, the School's Development Plan; pupil intake and enrolment numbers; administration of pastoral matters; finance and budgetary administration; and the maintenance of the Inchmarlo estate.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Curriculum and Quality Assessment), the Vice Principal (Pastoral and Pupil Achievement) and the Bursar, has responsibility for implementing and managing the strategies approved by the Board of Governors.



Decision making

The Board of Governors determine the strategic direction and policies for the School. Responsibility is delegated to the Senior Leadership Team to implement the strategies and policies and ensure the School achieves its aims and objectives. The School Development Plan and associated budgets provide a framework for the implementation of the strategies.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and provide written and verbal information regarding the progress of the implementation of the School Development Plan, budgetary updates, variances arising and any remedial action taken.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

The Staffing Committee review the salaries of all staff on an annual basis. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board for any changes in salary, outside of agreed national agreements, including the salaries of the Senior Leadership Team. The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the setting of staff salaries.

Relationships with Related Parties

Due to the nature of the School's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors, being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the School's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Statement of Governors Responsibilities

The Board of Governors of Royal Belfast Academical Institution is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the School and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Endowment, the Board, through its Chair, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements the Board is 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 assume that the School will continue in operation.

The Board is also required to prepare an Annual Report which describes the School objectives and how they are to be achieved, including the legal and administrative status of the School.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records to safeguard assets of the School and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Board has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Department of Education are used only for the purposes for which they have been given;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the School;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the School's resources and expenditure.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the members of the Board is aware at the time this report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and
- that the members of the Board have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Governors on 22 May 2023 by:



R.M. Howard
Chairman

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108024

Annual return

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Belfast Academical Institution (the 'School') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Income and Expenditure Accounts, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at 31st March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the standards of accounting set by the Department of Education for Voluntary Grammar School's Statement of Accounts and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Proper accounting records have been kept by the School throughout the period;
- The School's whole system of internal control in the relevant financial period was such as to comply with the obligations placed on the Board of Governors by the Department of Education and we have not identified any significant weaknesses;
- Grants made by the Department of Education and funds from other sources reported in the relevant financial period have been applied in accordance with the Financial Memorandum and any other terms and requirements attached to them;
- Pension deductions made by the School in the relevant financial period were calculated correctly and have been paid over as required: and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable law, guidance issued by the Department of Education and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the School in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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 audit opinion.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

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 School's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where legislation requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Governors' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the School'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 School or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We 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.

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

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

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the School and considered that the most significant to be 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).
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the School's internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the School complies with relevant laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal audit reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the School's Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the School's Governors 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 School and its Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (NI) LLP

Moore NI LLP

Senior Statutory Auditor
4th Floor - Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 5GB

Date: *22 May 2023*

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008