

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD  
(FORMERLY THE BRIDGE LONDON TRUST LTD)**

**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Members</b>	David Tait Daniel Rose Helen Rayfield Amy Loveng Thomas Adcock
<b>Directors</b>	David Tait, Chair Kurt Ma Gillian Jones Thomas Adcock Penny Barratt, CEO Derek Meerstadt Marisa Reventos (appointed 13 January 2022)
<b>Company registered number</b>	08343491
<b>Company name</b>	The Bridge MAT LTD
<b>Registered and principal office</b>	251 Hungerford Road London N7 9LD
<b>Accounting Officer</b>	Penny Barratt
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Penny Barratt, Chief Executive Officer Harold Reid, Chief Financial & Operating Officer Ed Ashcroft, Head of School, The Bridge ILS Penny Doswell, Head Teacher, The Bridge Primary School (Resigned 5th June 2022) Rosie Whur, Head Teacher, The Bridge Satellite Provision Jo Stephens, Head Teacher, The Bridge Hungerford School Gary Morrissey, Teaching School Director Julian Matthews, Head Teacher, The Bridge School
<b>Independent Auditors</b>	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC London EC2R 8AU

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Directors present their Annual Report together with the financial statements and Auditor's Report of The Bridge MAT Ltd (BMAT, the Trust, or the Charitable Company) for the year ended 31 August 2022. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Trust operates four Academies, one of which is a mainstream two form entry primary school, the remaining three are special schools. They all serve the local catchment area of Islington and Camden, North London, and the special needs cater for pupils aged 5-19 with autism and learning difficulties. The special schools are The Bridge School, The Bridge Integrated Learning Space and the Bridge Satellite Provision, the mainstream primary school is The Bridge Hungerford School, The schools are located in five separate locations in the London Borough of Islington. Together the Schools had a roll of 469 in the October 2022 school census.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Constitution**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are its primary governing documents. The Trustees of The Charitable Company are also the Directors for the purposes of company law. The terms Trustee and Director are interchangeable and the Board of Directors are also referred to as the Board. The Charitable Company operates as the Bridge MAT Limited, the trading names by which the Schools within the Trust are known are as follows;

The Bridge Primary School  
The Bridge Secondary School  
The Bridge School London  
The Bridge Integrated Learning Space  
The Bridge Satellite Provision  
The Bridge Hungerford School  
The Bridge Teaching School

The Board delegates powers to Local Governing Boards ('LGBs') to which Governors are appointed. These LGBs are responsible for maintaining the outstanding delivery of Teaching and Learning which has been achieved historically in the Trust schools.

**Members' liability**

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

**Directors' and Officers' indemnities**

Director's benefit from the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK Government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors**

In line with the Trust's Articles of Association, the Trust Board may comprise of the following:

- Up to 5 Directors appointed by the Members of the Trust;
- The Chief Executive Officer, if so appointed by the Members of the Trust;
- Other Co-opted Directors appointed by those Directors appointed by the Members of the Trust with staff appointments to not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.

The process for appointing new Directors is supported by sourcing nominations of potential candidates from external agencies including Academy Ambassadors with these considered by the Members and other Directors for appointment. These considerations include reference to skills and areas of knowledge in need of strengthening identified through skills audits and reviews of effectiveness.

The process for the election of a new Chair would commence with a search for potential nominees from amongst existing Directors to be followed, if required, by an external appointment search.

A Director shall cease to hold office if they resign by notice to the Trust, subject to at least three Directors remaining in office when the resignation takes effect. A Director may be removed from office by those that appointed them or by an Ordinary Resolution of the Members of the Trust in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

**Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors**

The Charitable Company is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Directors and Governors to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust provides an internal programme of continued professional development led by experienced training providers including members of the Trust Leadership Team.

All new Directors are entitled to an induction to the role, according to their need, which may include, introductory sessions, mentoring and formal courses. This process will involve a meeting with the Chair of Directors and the CEO. All Trustees are provided with access to policies and procedure documents that are appropriate to the role they undertake as Directors.

**Organisational structure**

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department of Education. The governance structure is on two levels; The Board and its Committees and then Local Governing Bodies.

The Board is responsible for the strategic decision making of the Trust and for ensuring that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. It exercises its powers and functions by addressing such matters as policy and strategy development, adopting the annual Trust Improvement Plan and three year budget, monitoring and making decisions about the direction of the Trust. It also appoints senior staff and reviews progress towards educational objective. A committee of the Board agrees the performance objectives of the CEO, and reviews them.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

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

Key management personnel include Directors and those staff to whom the Directors have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors, such as the school group size, ISR, the pay scales for each role and the level of experience of each staff member. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards, the ability to recruit and retain in post, all of which are in accordance with the Trust's appointment and pay policies.

All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration is approved by a committee of the Board and are in line with comparatives a for other academies supplied by the Confederation of School Trusts.

**Trade union facility time**

There was 1 employee who was a relevant union official during the period and no time was spent on paid trade union activities

**Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which Directors may have an interest.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Director may have a pecuniary interest is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academies Handbook.

The Trust cooperated with the following organisations during the academic year in pursuit of its charitable activities:

- The Bridge Charity

The Trust does not have a formal sponsor.

**Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust**

The Directors have implemented clear policies and procedures for dealing fairly with suppliers. Formal orders are placed and agreed payment terms always adhered to. To ensure service continuity during and after the current coronavirus outbreak the Trust has, where possible, followed the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Note (PPN) that sets out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of their suppliers.

The Directors consider pupils and parents to be their "customers". Whilst pupils encounter engagement on a daily basis, engagement with parents is carried out through regular newsletters and face to face meetings.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Objectives and activities**

**Objects and aims**

The Trust's object is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies that offer a broad and balanced curriculum and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 19.

**Objectives, strategies and activities**

The objective of the Trust is to deliver a high quality teaching and learning offer in all of its schools over a prolonged period.

In order to do this we have employed the following strategies and activities

- Developed staff to provide high quality teaching and learning through systematic coaching
- Designed curricular which is matched to local contexts and individual needs
- Implemented Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) across all the schools
- Learnt from evidence bases for our practice
- Encourage delegation
- Recruited well
- Built overall leadership capacity
- Provided a systematic CPD offer with career opportunities
- Continued progress in the improvement of central services, systems, structures and financial control
- Developed a centralised school improvement function

**Public benefit**

The Directors confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for the year. The Directors consider that the Trust's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

**Strategic report**

**Growth and Development**

The Trust has been approved as the sponsor of a new special free school in Norwich. This school is due to open in January 2023. The school building is approaching completion.

**Achievement against objectives**

Pupils continue to make progress against their personalised objectives which are set with parents. This progress has been qualitatively assured by Challenge Partners and Ofsted with positive outcomes for all schools.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**(continued)**

**Key performance indicators**

The academic performance of each school is regularly reviewed by the Directors and closely monitored by the Local Governing Boards. In addition, the Directors receive financial reports containing financial data which include; consolidated management accounts, cash flow forecast, individual Academy forecast outturn reports with commentary for any significant variations.

The Board monitors income and expenditure to ensure that no unlicensed deficits arise for individual Schools and reserves are maintained in line with policy, it also reviews performance of each School compared to aims, strategies and financial budgets.

**Going concern**

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

In making this statement the Board of Trustees have taken into due consideration the effects upon the Trust of the COVID-19 pandemic, the partial closure of the School during the period and the changes in practices introduced from the 2021 Autumn term.

Further consideration on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can be found in Note 1.2.

**Promoting the success of the company**

The Directors have an obligation to act in a way most likely to promote the success of the Charitable Company. Details regarding engagement with employees, suppliers, parents, pupils and other connected parties have been covered in separate notes within the Trustees' Report. The obligation to assess the likely consequences of decisions in the longer term is noted within the reserves policy below as Directors balance the needs of current and future cohorts.

The Directors have identified reputational and ethical areas as key risks and their actions in these areas are covered within Principal risks and uncertainties later within this Strategic Report.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

(continued)

**Financial review**

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the General Annual Grant (GAG), pupil top-up funding and other grants that it receives from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is limited to specific purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income and expenditure for the year includes capital income, depreciation and pension scheme adjustments which are accounting adjustments and not included when operational budgets are agreed with the ESFA.

A summary of the results for the year is below:

	Fixed Asset Fund	Restricted General Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Pension Reserve	Total
Donation on transfer/conversion	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming Resources	272,712	11,950,466	765,629	-	12,988,807
Resources Expended	(738,843)	(11,419,992)	(552,961)	(239,000)	(12,950,796)
LGPS Charge				(1,766,000)	(1,766,000)
Depreciation	(1,182,780)				(1,182,780)
Employer contributions paid				850,000	850,000
Total Resources Expended	(1,921,623)	(11,419,992)	(552,961)	(1,155,000)	(15,049,576)
Transfers	172,922	(172,922)	-		-
Actuarial Gains				8,914,000	8,914,000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(1,475,989)	357,552	212,668	7,759,000	6,853,231
Balance at 1 September 2021	108,560,687	944,165	922,994	(12,860,000)	97,567,846
Balance at 31 August 2022	107,084,698	1,301,717	1,135,662	(5,101,000)	104,421,076

Expenditure has supported the key objectives of the Trust, with budgets being set in line with operational requirements.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Scheme under FRS102, the Trust is recognising significant pension fund deficit of £5,101,000. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years. In discussion with a DfE pensions expert, the Directors have rejected the proposal to employ staff by way of a service provision agreement, thereby reducing the exposure of the Trust to future defined benefit liability.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Reserves policy**

The Directors are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The Directors monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures by way of monthly financial reports from the Chief Financial and Operating Officer. The three year budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following two academic years, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose. The Directors recognise that a deficit position of the Local Government Pension Scheme would generally result in the increase in employer's pension contributions over a period of years.

The Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £1,135,662. The Directors take the prudent view that depending upon the need to finance educational improvement plans, the Trust should hold a cash contingency. Any such contingency should equate to no more than 5% of expenditure and might in many circumstances be less than this. Any deemed surplus is to be made available to invest in the development of the MAT.

The Trust's balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2022 was £2,437,379.

**Investment policy**

The aim of the policy will be to ensure funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested to maximise the Trust's income but with minimal risk. The aim is to research where funds may be deposited applying prudence in ensuring there is minimum risk. The Directors do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as good stewardship and as and when circumstances allow.

**Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Directors maintain a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the risk register process is undertaken on an annual basis, the internal control systems and the exposure to risks are monitored on behalf of the Directors at key Board meetings. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Schools at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Directors report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As a Multi Academy Trust, the level of financial risk is reduced as cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

The Directors assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms;
- failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, returns, etc. The Directors continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks;

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

- reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract student applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Directors ensure that student progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed;
- safeguarding and child protection - the Directors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline;
- staffing - the success of the Trust is reliant on achieving outstanding teaching and learning. The Directors monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning;
- fraud and mismanagement of funds - the Directors have appointed internal auditor, Kreston Reeves, to carry out independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area;
- financial instruments – the Trust only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low; and;
- defined benefit pension liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any school ceasing to exist the main risk to the Trust is an annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. Directors take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan.
- exposure to an infectious virus or bacteria places students, staff or external visitors at significant health risk – the Directors regularly monitor and review the comprehensive Covid-19 risk assessment and make every effort to keep the Schools open when and wherever possible.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness.

**Disclosure of information to Auditors**

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditors are unaware, and
- that Directors have taken all steps that 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.

The Directors' Report was approved by order of the Board of Directors and signed on it's behalf by:

**David Tait**  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 7 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Scope of responsibility**

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

In taking this view we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, has the statutory responsibility for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Bridge MAT Ltd and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive is not a financial professional and in order to perform this function relies upon the active involvement of the Chief Operating Officer. The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility of financial management to the Chief Operating Officer who is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The Board has formally met 10 times during the period.

Attendance during the period at meetings of the Board of Directors was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
David Tait, Chair	10	10
Kurt Ma	8	10
Gillian Jones	8	10
Thomas Adcock	5	10
Penny Barratt, CEO	10	10
Derek Meerstadt	8	10
Marisa Reventos	6	6

In order to manage conflicts of interests the Trust has 'Declarations of interest' as a standing item on the agenda at every meeting of directors and the Annual General Meeting of members. Directors and members are also required to complete an annual declaration of interest form; the register of interests is maintained by the MAT Governance Professional.

Review of year:

Every full Board of Directors meeting includes a report from the Chief Executive Officer, a report from the Chief Operating Officer and an update on governance at both Trust and local level. Matters discussed during the year to 31 August 2022 included;

- Review of the Educational performance of all schools
- Review of the Financial performance of all schools
- In an effort to not to place a burden on individuals to attend meetings the Finance and Audit committee meeting was moved to take place before the full board meeting.
- Review of leadership capacity and succession planning
- Review of Strategic risks, mitigations and contingencies including a review of arrangements relating to Covid -19
- Review of the Trust's Growth Strategy
- Review of the most efficient way to review the effectiveness of the board.
- Review and receive reports on the progress of the Free School Capital for the New School in Norfolk.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance (continued)**

Governance reviews:

During the year the Chair of Directors undertook a review of governance by interviewing all Directors, two Local Governing Board Chairs and two members of the Senior Leadership Team. The following main points arose:

- Financial control and the provisions of central services was considered robust
- The setting of strategic goals for the Trust and for its individual schools that were understood. implemented and monitored needed further development and improvement
- A system of annual review of the effectiveness of Local Governing Boards and the Board needed to put in place to start in the current year
- Every three years these reviews should be independently assessed by an accredited third party
- At this stage there was no appetite to conduct reviews of individual governors or directors but only on their effectiveness in working as a Trust or Local Governing Board

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Directors.

Attendance during the period at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
David Tait	3	3
Thomas Adock	2	3
Kurt Ma	3	3

Matters discussed during the year to 31 August 2022 included but were not limited to

- Regular review of the forecast outturns and current financial position.
- Review of 3 year budgets.
- Review of Capital grants received in the year for the improvement of the estate.
- Review of procurement policies and value for money.
- Review and agreement of financial policies and regulations.
- Commission and receive reports from the Internal Auditors on the internal control framework.
- Receive and Review reports from external auditors on the year end process.

**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Procuring new desktops at the Bridge School, both primary and secondary phases using a purchasing framework and operating leasing arrangement with Dell.
- Appointing a new payroll provider following a tender process which has secured better value for money and increased efficiency.
- Consolidating all the individual telecoms providers across the trust into one provider and rolled out VOIP across all Trust schools, achieving cost reductions and value for money.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Bridge MAT for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. It is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's risks that has been in place for the year to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board.

**The risk and control framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risk

The Board of Directors has decided to employ Kreston Reeves as internal auditor.

The Board has bought in an internal audit service from Kreston Reeves

The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Review of Risk Management and the Risk register
- Testing of Payroll
- Testing of Purchase Systems
- Testing of Control Accounts/ Bank Reconciliations
- Testing of Internal Financial Controls

On a termly basis, the Internal Auditor reports to the Board, through the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of their work.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**The risk and control framework (continued)**

**Review of effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the external Auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

**David Tait**  
Chair of Directors

**Penny Barratt**  
Accounting Officer

Date: 7 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of The Bridge MAT LTD I have considered my responsibility to notify the Board of Directors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

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

**Penny Barratt**  
Accounting Officer

Date: 7 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Directors (who are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

**David Tait**  
Chair of Directors

Date: 7 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
BRIDGE MAT LTD**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Bridge MAT LTD (the 'Trust') for the period ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
BRIDGE MAT LTD (CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

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

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

**Responsibilities of Directors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the Directors (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
BRIDGE MAT LTD (CONTINUED)**

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Trust and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting and tax legislation and academy sector regulations including GDPR, employment law, health and safety and safeguarding. The risks were discussed with the audit team and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

- We reviewed systems and procedures to identify potential areas of management override risk. In particular, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any large or unusual transactions to determine whether they were significant to our assessment.
- We reviewed key controls, authorisation procedures and decision making processes for any unusual or one-off transactions.
- We reviewed minutes of Board meetings and other relevant sub-committees of the Board such as the Finance Committee and agreed the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- We have made enquiries of the Accounting Officer and senior management team to identify laws and regulations applicable to the Trust. We assessed details of any breaches where applicable in order to assess the impact upon the Trust.
- We reviewed the risk management processes and procedures in place including a review of the Risk Register and Board Assurance Reporting and the Internal Scrutiny Reports.

We have reviewed any correspondence with the ESFA / DfE and the procedures in place for the reporting of incidents to the Directors including reporting of any serious incidents to the Regulator if necessary. 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: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
BRIDGE MAT LTD (CONTINUED)**

**Use of our report**

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

**Tom Meeks (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Price Bailey LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Causeway House

1 Dane Street

Bishop's Stortford

Hertfordshire

CM23 3BT

15 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE BRIDGE  
MAT LTD AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 July 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Bridge MAT LTD during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of The Bridge MAT LTD's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Bridge MAT LTD's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 April 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE BRIDGE  
MAT LTD AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance.
- Consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and how the Trust complies with the framework of authorities.
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the Trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity, propriety and compliance.
- Discussions with and representations from the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel.
- An extension of substantive testing from our audit of the financial statements to cover matters pertaining to regularity, in order to support the regularity conclusion, including governance, internal controls, procurement and the application of income.

**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant  
**Price Bailey LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors

Date: 15 December 2022

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

	Note	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	6,847	272,712	55,316	334,875	1,401,860
Other trading activities	5	-	-	460,543	460,543	383,651
Investments	6	-	-	298	298	222
Charitable activities	4	11,943,619	-	40,118	11,983,737	11,318,794
Teaching schools		-	-	209,354	209,354	162,955
<b>Total income</b>		<b>11,950,466</b>	<b>272,712</b>	<b>765,629</b>	<b>12,988,807</b>	<b>13,267,482</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	7	12,574,992	1,921,624	278,138	14,774,754	13,197,242
Teaching schools		-	-	274,823	274,823	237,062
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>12,574,992</b>	<b>1,921,624</b>	<b>552,961</b>	<b>15,049,577</b>	<b>13,434,304</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) /income</b>		<b>(624,526)</b>	<b>(1,648,912)</b>	<b>212,668</b>	<b>(2,060,770)</b>	<b>(166,822)</b>
Transfers between funds	18	(172,922)	172,922	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(797,448)</b>	<b>(1,475,990)</b>	<b>212,668</b>	<b>(2,060,770)</b>	<b>(166,822)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	8,914,000	-	-	8,914,000	(1,510,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>8,116,552</b>	<b>(1,475,990)</b>	<b>212,668</b>	<b>6,853,230</b>	<b>(1,676,822)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		(11,915,835)	108,560,687	922,994	97,567,846	99,244,668
Net movement in funds		8,116,552	(1,475,990)	212,668	6,853,230	(1,676,822)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>(3,799,283)</b>	<b>107,084,697</b>	<b>1,135,662</b>	<b>104,421,076</b>	<b>97,567,846</b>

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**REGISTRATION NUMBER 08343491**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	106,448,579	107,458,437
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	15	1,431,842	1,885,540
Cash at bank and in hand		3,227,441	1,779,182
		<u>4,659,283</u>	<u>3,664,722</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,521,501)	(695,313)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>3,137,782</u>	<u>2,969,409</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>109,586,361</u>	<u>110,427,846</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(64,285)	-
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>109,522,076</u>	<u>110,427,846</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(5,101,000)	(12,860,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>104,421,076</u>	<u>97,567,846</u>
<b>Funds of the Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	107,084,697	108,560,687
Restricted income funds	18	1,301,717	944,165
Pension reserve	18	(5,101,000)	(12,860,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	<u>103,285,414</u>	<u>96,644,852</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18	1,135,662	922,994
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>104,421,076</u></u>	<u><u>97,567,846</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 22 to 50 were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors and are signed on their behalf, by:

**David Tait**  
Chair of Directors

Date: 7 December 2022

The notes on pages 25 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	1,348,171	(1,171,930)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	100,088	1,196,478
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	21	-	(62,591)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>		1,448,259	(38,043)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1,779,182	1,817,225
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	23, 24	<u>3,227,441</u>	<u>1,779,182</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 50 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Bridge MAT Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The Trust's functional and presentational currency is Pounds Sterling.

**1.2 Going concern**

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

The Trust derives the majority of its income from local and national government grant funding which is secured for a number of years, under the terms of the Trust Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. This will ensure that the Trust can continue operating for a period of at least 12 months following the date of this Report. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Trust were not able to continue as a going concern.

**1.3 Company status**

The Trust is a Company limited by guarantee. The Members are noted on page 3. In event of the Trust being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member.

**1.4 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

**1.6 Expenditure**

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Taxation**

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the Government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 35 - 125 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10 years
Motor vehicles	- 10 years
Computer equipment	- 4 years

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

**1.9 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.10 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 Liabilities**

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

**1.12 Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**1.13 Financial instruments**

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

**THE BRIDGE MAT LTD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.14 Pensions**

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

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

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

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

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	3,759	-	55,316	59,075	-
Grants	3,088	-	-	3,088	-
Government grants	-	272,712	-	272,712	1,401,860
<b>Total 2022</b>	<u>6,847</u>	<u>272,712</u>	<u>55,316</u>	<u>334,875</u>	<u>1,401,860</u>
Total 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>1,401,860</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,401,860</u>	

In 2021, Government grants received all related to restricted fixed asset funds.

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**4. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities**

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Provision of Education</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA Grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,157,599	-	4,157,599	3,921,311
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Start up grants	60,000	-	60,000	100,000
Pupil premium	307,840	-	307,840	323,382
UIFSM	13,695	-	13,695	17,718
Teachers pay grant	765	-	765	46,239
Teachers pension grant	2,160	-	2,160	149,612
Trust Capacity Funding	-	-	-	114,989
Other DfE/ESFA grants	243,890	-	243,890	224,834
	-	-	4,785,949	4,898,085
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local Authority grant	7,157,670	-	7,157,670	6,351,839
<b>Other income</b>				
Catering income	-	40,118	40,118	10,474
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
COVID emergency support	-	-	-	58,396
	-	-	-	58,396
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>11,943,619</b>	<b>40,118</b>	<b>11,983,737</b>	<b>11,318,794</b>
Total 2021	11,308,320	10,474	11,318,794	

In 2021, all DfE / ESFA grants received were restricted.

In 2021, all Other Government grants received were restricted.

In 2021, all catering income received was unrestricted.

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**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Hire of facilities	103,033	103,033	71,943
Other income generated	357,510	357,510	311,708
<b>Total 2022</b>	<u>460,543</u>	<u>460,543</u>	<u>383,651</u>
Total 2021	<u>383,651</u>	<u>383,651</u>	

In 2021, all income generated from other trading activities was unrestricted.

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Interest receivable	<u>298</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>222</u>
Total 2021	<u>222</u>	<u>222</u>	

In 2021, all investment income was unrestricted.

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**7. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Provision of Education:					
Direct costs	8,458,302	-	756,122	9,214,424	8,705,065
Support costs	1,447,958	2,500,334	1,612,038	5,560,330	4,492,177
Teaching school	220,333	-	54,490	274,823	237,062
<b>Total 2022</b>	<u>10,126,593</u>	<u>2,500,334</u>	<u>2,422,650</u>	<u>15,049,577</u>	<u>13,434,304</u>
Total 2021	<u>10,042,974</u>	<u>2,216,620</u>	<u>1,174,710</u>	<u>13,434,304</u>	

In 2022, of the total expenditure, £552,961 (2021 - £370,174) was from unrestricted funds, £12,574,993 (2021 - £11,571,617) was from restricted funds and £1,921,624 (2021 - £1,492,513) was from restricted fixed asset funds.

In 2021, direct costs consisted of £8,397,849 staff costs and £307,216 other costs.

In 2021, support costs consisted of £1,449,919 staff costs, £2,216,620 premises costs and £825,638 other costs.

In 2021, teaching school consisted of £195,206 staff costs and £41,856 other costs.

**8. Charitable activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Direct costs	9,214,424	8,705,065
Support costs	5,560,330	4,492,177
	<u>14,774,754</u>	<u>13,197,242</u>

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	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	1,447,958	1,449,919
Depreciation	1,182,780	1,179,700
Premises costs	1,317,554	1,055,798
Technology costs	203,930	80,932
Other costs	1,373,380	675,932
Governance costs	1,276	19,780
Legal costs	33,452	30,116
	5,560,330	4,492,177

**9. Net (expenditure)/income**

Net (expenditure)/income for the period includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	17,699	1,544
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,182,780	1,179,700
Fees paid to Auditors for:		
- audit	12,560	10,920
- other services	9,870	7,225
	12,509	19,689

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**10. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the period were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	6,227,538	6,261,037
Social security costs	633,058	590,282
Pension costs	2,389,227	1,985,401
	<u>9,249,823</u>	<u>8,836,720</u>
Agency staff costs	1,490,623	1,177,585
Staff restructuring costs	30,000	28,668
	<u>10,770,446</u>	<u>10,042,973</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	<u>30,000</u>	<u>28,668</u>
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All redundancy payments were made under statutory guidelines.

**b. Staff numbers**

The average number of persons employed by the Trust during the period was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	43	35
Administration and support	179	171
Management	15	16
	<u>237</u>	<u>222</u>

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**10. Staff (continued)**

**b. Staff numbers (continued)**

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	38	35
Administration and support	128	119
Management	13	15
	<u>179</u>	<u>169</u>

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	5	6
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	3
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £1,428,892 (2021 - £1,421,934). Included in the above are employer National Insurance contributions of £132,816 (2021 - £128,856) and employer pension contributions of £238,818 (2021 - £238,321).

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**11. Central services**

The Trust has provided the following central services to its Academies during the period:

- Educational leadership support
- HR management
- Financial management
- Property management
- Procurement
- ICT management
- Legal and governance
- Marketing

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The charges for these services on the basis of 6% of income, the charge is also used as a mechanism for the efficient recharge of other expenditure. Where this percentage is not deemed to be an appropriate method, the basis of the recharge is either pupil numbers or a proportion of the full amount as a recharge of expenditure on the schools behalf.

All services charged by the Trust represent internal recharges within the Multi Academy Trust, and as such are not within the scope of VAT.

The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
The Integrated Learning Space	144,883	142,041
The Bridge Primary School	294,812	289,031
The Bridge Secondary School	267,907	262,655
Hungerford Primary	152,236	150,730
The Bridge Satellite Provision	122,649	120,242
<b>Total</b>	982,487	964,699

**12. Directors' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Trust. The Chief Executive Officer and other staff Directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Chief Executive Officer and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2022	2021
Penny Barratt	Remuneration	140,000 - 145,000	140,000 - 145,000
	Pension contributions paid	30,000 - 35,000	30,000 - 35,000

During the period ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £303.40 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Director (2021 - £NIL to no Director).

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**13. Directors' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2022 was included in the total insurance cost.

**14. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	111,786,033	248,694	181,238	53,138	112,269,103
Additions	124,195	19,885	28,842	-	172,922
At 31 August 2022	<u>111,910,228</u>	<u>268,579</u>	<u>210,080</u>	<u>53,138</u>	<u>112,442,025</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	4,574,890	112,826	99,131	23,819	4,810,666
Charge for the period	1,116,505	26,858	34,103	5,314	1,182,780
At 31 August 2022	<u>5,691,395</u>	<u>139,684</u>	<u>133,234</u>	<u>29,133</u>	<u>5,993,446</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2022	<u>106,218,833</u>	<u>128,895</u>	<u>76,846</u>	<u>24,005</u>	<u>106,448,579</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>107,211,143</u>	<u>135,868</u>	<u>82,107</u>	<u>29,319</u>	<u>107,458,437</u>

**15. Debtors**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	312,002	602,345
VAT recoverable	108,952	102,494
Prepayments and accrued income	1,010,888	1,180,701
	<u>1,431,842</u>	<u>1,885,540</u>

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**16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	10,715	-
Trade creditors	670,236	219,336
Other taxation and social security	178,499	146,417
Other creditors	145,932	134,887
Accruals and deferred income	516,119	194,673
	<u>1,521,501</u>	<u>695,313</u>

**17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	<u>64,285</u>	<u>-</u>

Other loans comprise a loan from Salix for £64,285, which is provided at 0% interest, repayable over 6 years.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**18. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted fund	1,133,273	556,275	(278,138)	-	-	1,411,410
Teaching school	(210,279)	209,354	(274,823)	-	-	(275,748)
	<u>922,994</u>	<u>765,629</u>	<u>(552,961)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,135,662</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	857,665	4,157,599	(3,578,189)	(172,922)	-	1,264,153
Start Up Grant	86,500	60,000	(108,936)	-	-	37,564
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	568,350	(568,350)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	7,157,670	(7,157,670)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	6,847	(6,847)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(12,860,000)	-	(1,155,000)	-	8,914,000	(5,101,000)
	<u>(11,915,835)</u>	<u>11,950,466</u>	<u>(12,574,992)</u>	<u>(172,922)</u>	<u>8,914,000</u>	<u>(3,799,283)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted fixed asset fund	107,458,437	-	(1,182,780)	172,922	-	106,448,579
CIF	1,031,679	-	(395,561)	-	-	636,118
DFC	-	70,976	(70,976)	-	-	-
Other Capital Grants	70,571	201,736	(272,307)	-	-	-
	<u>108,560,687</u>	<u>272,712</u>	<u>(1,921,624)</u>	<u>172,922</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,084,697</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>96,644,852</u>	<u>12,223,178</u>	<u>(14,496,616)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,914,000</u>	<u>103,285,414</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>97,567,846</u></u>	<u><u>12,988,807</u></u>	<u><u>(15,049,577)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>8,914,000</u></u>	<u><u>104,421,076</u></u>

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

**Unrestricted funds**

This represents income which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the Directors.

**Other DfE/ESFA grants**

This represents funding to be used to help raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils from low income families who are eligible for free school meals.

**General Annual Grant (GAG)**

This represents funding from the ESFA to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs. The Trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

**Other Government grants**

This represents place funding from local councils to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs.

**Start up grant**

This represents a grant to aid with start up costs for new member schools to the Trust.

**Pension reserve**

This reserve represents the Trust's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Trust on conversion from the state controlled school.

**Restricted fixed asset fund**

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

**Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)**

This represents funding received from the ESFA specifically for the maintenance and improvements of the Trust's building facilities.

**Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)**

This represents funding received from the ESFA to cover the cost of safeguarding improvements undertaken during the year.

**Teaching School**

This represents funding received for community-focused school funding and facilities income.

**Other Capital Grants**

This represents a grant from local government sources.

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted fund	912,037	394,347	(173,111)	-	-	1,133,273
Teaching school	(136,171)	122,955	(197,063)	-	-	(210,279)
	<u>775,866</u>	<u>517,302</u>	<u>(370,174)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>922,994</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	355,953	3,921,311	(3,452,108)	32,509	-	857,665
Start Up Grant	-	100,000	(13,500)	-	-	86,500
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	935,170	(935,170)	-	-	-
Other Government grants	-	6,351,839	(6,351,839)	-	-	-
Teaching school	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(10,571,000)	-	(779,000)	-	(1,510,000)	(12,860,000)
	<u>(10,215,047)</u>	<u>11,348,320</u>	<u>(11,571,617)</u>	<u>32,509</u>	<u>(1,510,000)</u>	<u>(11,915,835)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted fixed asset fund	108,670,646	-	(1,179,700)	(32,509)	-	107,458,437
CIF	13,203	1,074,116	(55,640)	-	-	1,031,679
DFC	-	25,822	(25,822)	-	-	-
Other Capital Grants	-	301,922	(231,351)	-	-	70,571
	<u>108,683,849</u>	<u>1,401,860</u>	<u>(1,492,513)</u>	<u>(32,509)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,560,687</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>98,468,802</u>	<u>12,750,180</u>	<u>(13,064,130)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,510,000)</u>	<u>96,644,852</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>99,244,668</u>	<u>13,267,482</u>	<u>(13,434,304)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,510,000)</u>	<u>97,567,846</u>

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Total funds analysis by Academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
The Trust	2,437,379	1,867,159
Restricted fixed asset fund	107,084,697	108,560,687
Pension reserve	(5,101,000)	(12,860,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,421,076</b>	<b>97,567,846</b>

**Total cost analysis by Academy**

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the period was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
The Intergrated Learning Space	1,396,898	198,792	40,015	143,224	1,778,929	1,811,374
The Bridge School	4,596,011	591,763	92,799	969,168	6,249,741	6,103,244
Hungerford Primary	1,149,709	249,043	25,797	360,892	1,785,441	1,876,761
The Bridge Satellite Provision	933,103	64,790	35,772	203,940	1,237,605	1,332,588
Central services	382,581	343,570	52,590	2,036,340	2,815,081	2,113,269
<b>Trust</b>	<b>8,458,302</b>	<b>1,447,958</b>	<b>246,973</b>	<b>3,713,564</b>	<b>13,866,797</b>	<b>13,237,236</b>

Fund balances for each academy 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2021 were zero as the Trust holds all reserves centrally, hence a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

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**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	106,448,579	-	106,448,579
Current assets	2,865,784	636,118	1,135,662	4,637,564
Creditors due within one year	(1,499,782)	-	-	(1,499,782)
Creditors due in more than one year	(64,285)	-	-	(64,285)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(5,101,000)	-	-	(5,101,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>(3,799,283)</u></u>	<u><u>107,084,697</u></u>	<u><u>1,135,662</u></u>	<u><u>104,421,076</u></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	107,458,437	-	107,458,437
Current assets	1,458,621	1,283,107	922,994	3,664,722
Creditors due within one year	(514,456)	(180,857)	-	(695,313)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(12,860,000)	-	-	(12,860,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>(11,915,835)</u></u>	<u><u>108,560,687</u></u>	<u><u>922,994</u></u>	<u><u>97,567,846</u></u>

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**20. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(2,060,770)	(166,822)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,182,780	1,179,700
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(272,712)	(1,300,666)
Interest receivable	(298)	(222)
Movement in debtors	475,417	(1,245,816)
Movement in creditors	868,754	(417,104)
LGPS adjustment	1,155,000	779,000
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,348,171</b>	<b>(1,171,930)</b>

**21. Cash flows from financing activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Repayments of borrowing	-	(62,591)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(62,591)</b>

**22. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest	298	222
Purchase of tangible assets	(172,922)	(104,410)
Capital grants from DfE Group	272,712	1,200,302
Capital funding received from others	-	100,364
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>100,088</b>	<b>1,196,478</b>

**23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	3,227,441	1,779,182

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**24. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,779,182	1,448,259	3,227,441
Debt due within 1 year	-	(10,715)	(10,715)
Debt due after 1 year	-	(64,285)	(64,285)
	<u>1,779,182</u>	<u>1,373,259</u>	<u>3,152,441</u>

**25. Members' liability**

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

**26. Pension commitments**

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £140,570 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £133,582) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**26. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £624,917 (2021 - £626,456).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2022 was £1,087,000 (2021 - £1,000,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £850,000 (2021 - £784,000) and employees' contributions totalled £237,000 (2021 - £216,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.8 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

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**26. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.9

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

	2022 Years	2021 Years
Retiring today		
Males	22.7	22.8
Females	25.3	25.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.1	24.3
Females	27.1	27.2

**Sensitivity analysis**

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	270	439
Discount rate -0.1%	270	450
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	214	549
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	214	531
CPI rate +0.1%	277	450
CPI rate -0.1%	277	439

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**26. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Share of scheme assets**

The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 31 August 2021 £
Equities	2,701,000	2,709,000
Gilts	419,000	681,000
Property	1,001,000	752,000
Cash and other liquid assets	739,000	23,000
Other	961,000	656,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>5,821,000</b>	<b>4,821,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £38,000 (2021 - £712,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	1,766,000	1,359,000
Interest income	(91,000)	(67,000)
Interest cost	303,000	248,000
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,978,000</b>	<b>1,540,000</b>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>17,682,000</b>	<b>13,823,000</b>
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the trust	1,766,000	1,359,000
Interest cost	303,000	248,000
Employee contributions	237,000	216,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(9,043,000)	2,155,000
Benefits paid	(23,000)	(119,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>10,922,000</b>	<b>17,682,000</b>

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**26. Pension commitments (continued)**

Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	4,822,000	3,252,000
Interest income	91,000	67,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(129,000)	645,000
Employer contributions	850,000	784,000
Employee contributions	237,000	216,000
Benefits paid	(23,000)	(119,000)
Administrative Expenses	(27,000)	(23,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<u>5,821,000</u>	<u>4,822,000</u>

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2022 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	17,101	1,544
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	61,867	1,929
	<u>78,968</u>	<u>3,473</u>

**28. Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the Trust and the composition of the Board of Directors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the directors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

During the year, The Bridge Charity, a connect charity of which Penny Barratt and Harold Reid are trustees, donated £96,881 (2021: £41,194) to the Trust. No amounts were outstanding at the year end.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain directors' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.