

Big Life Schools

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2022

Company Number: 07945230

Big Life Schools

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Reference and Administration Details for the year ended 31 August 2022

Members	The Big Life Company Nazia Parveen (Resigned 21 July 2022) Tayyaba Javed Liam McDaid (Resigned 21 July 2022) Matt Wallis (Resigned 29 November 2022) Karina Carter (Appointed 22 September 2022)
Directors	Karina Carter (Chair) (Resigned 21 July 2022) Emma Perry (Appointed Chair –21 July 2022) Andrea Heffernan Fay Selvan (Representative of the Big Life Company) Sandie Hayes (Resigned 31 March 2022) Philip Trohear Lisa Brooks Liam McDaid (Appointed 21 July 2022) Colin Ralph (Appointed 12 May 2022) Annette Joseph (Appointed 21 July 2022) Sandra Sinclair (Appointed 21 July 2022) Joanna Daley (Appointed 3 November 2022/ Resigned 8 December 2022) Matt Wallis (Appointed 8 December 2022)
Company Secretary	Victoria Vickers
Senior Management Team	Principal LCP - R Ahmed Principal UCP – J Lee Director of Schools and Accounting Officer – K Smith Chief Executive –Fay Selvan Chief Finance Officer – Phil Alty
Principle and Registered Office	1 st Floor, 463 Stretford Road Manchester, M16 9AB
Company Registration Number	07945230
Bankers	Santander Bridle Road Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
Auditors	Beever and Struthers One Express 1 George Leigh Street Manchester M4 5DL

Big Life Schools

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2022

The trustees present their annual report together with, the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates two primary schools in Manchester, Longsight Community Primary (LCP) and Unity Community Primary (UCP). LCP academy has a pupil capacity of 210 and had a roll of 213 at the most recent school census date. UCP academy will eventually have a capacity of 420 pupils and currently has a roll of 310. UCP also operates a nursery with a capacity for 104 children.

Principle Activities

LCP provided a Reception and Years 1-6 class for 213 pupils. There are 16 different languages spoken by children at the school and 88% had English as an additional language. 36% of children were in receipt of Pupil Premium and 13% had Special Education Needs. 57% of Early Year Foundation Stage children are achieving a 'Good Level of Development (GLD)' (2021:43%). Children assessed at Summer 2021 at Key Stage One showed they were achieving 50% in reading; 50% in writing; and 50% in maths. Children assessed in Summer 2021 at Key Stage Two showed they were achieving; 57% in reading; 50% in writing; and 57% in maths. Ofsted awarded the school 'Good' on inspection in September 2019.

Unity Community Primary provided classes for 310 children from Reception to Year 6 with two classes from Reception to Year 3. In addition the school currently has 76 children (aged 2-4 years) in its nursery. In the school 96% of children are from ethnic minorities: 85% had English as an additional language (EAL) and 32 different home language were used in school. In April 2018 Unity was inspected by Ofsted and judged to be 'Good'.

Statutory assessments were carried out in summer 2022 after two years with no assessments due to the pandemic. 30% of children achieved a Good Level of Development at EYFS, 60% of children achieved the expected level in the Y1 Phonics check. At the end of KS1, 45% were at Age-Related Expectation (ARE) in reading and 8% were at Greater Depth (GD) 35% ARE in writing, 2% GD and 65% ARE in maths, 8% GD.

In the end of KS2 SATs, 70% achieved ARE in the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test (GPS) with 13% at GD. 57% reached ARE in Reading with 10% GD. 50% achieved ARE in writing with 7% at GD. 57% reached ARE in Maths with 13% GD. 43% of the cohort reached ARE in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.

Trustees were very concerned about the impact on lockdowns during the pandemic now showing their impact on children in Early Years and reception, as well as the ongoing challenges staff Covid sickness has posed in this last year. We are very focussed on driving up outcomes for children in Early Year and Key Stage One, as well as improving outcomes for children at Key stage two. To achieve this we will focus on teaching and learning in the year ahead, and have provided for SLT to have time out of class teaching to support this. The new Big Life Curriculum will also be further embedded and supported by cross school learning and moderation.

Structure, Governance and Management Constitution

The Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Multi Academy Trust. The MAT is part of the Big Life group of social enterprises and charities.

On 22 October 2022 MAT members adopted revised Memorandum and Articles to reflect the latest guidance and requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook.

The trustees of Big Life Schools are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of Company Law. The charitable company is known as Big Life Schools.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 3.

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.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

Indemnities

The trust through its articles has indemnified its trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The recruitment, appointment and election of the trustees is undertaken in accordance with the Articles of Association and the Free School Funding Agreement. The Trust Board currently comprises of 9 Trustees from a range of professional backgrounds and experiences. Trustees are recruited according to their skillsets, experience and ability to contribute to the strategic leadership of the Trust.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the induction and Training of Trustees

The Training and Induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience and accordingly when necessary, induction is provided on charity, legal and financial matters. All governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets and strategic plans that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. The MAT has an active Board development plan which includes a briefing sessions, and access to internal and external training. All Trustees receive a Handbook outlining their roles and responsibilities and undertake an annual appraisal with the Chair and have tailored training plans.

Organisational Structure

Trustees are responsible for setting and monitoring the strategic objectives, general policies, budgets and capital expenditure of the Trust.

The Senior Management Team (including the Accounting Officer) as detailed on page 3 implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them.

In addition, MAT Trustees are further supported by individual school's Local Governing Bodies (LGB) that ensure each school's unique character and links with the local community are maintained. The Chair of each LGB is a Board member of the MAT attends each LGB offering support and guidance. The Governor's role on the LGB is to monitor the individual school's approach to learning and ensure policies are implemented and applied effectively

Day to day operational management is delegated to the school principal supported by the senior management team.

Governance overview for Big Life Schools is provided through the Big Life Schools Risk and Audit Committee who report directly to the MAT Board.

Arrangements for setting pay of key management personnel

The Trustees of the MAT do not receive remuneration from the Trust.

Key Management Personnel comprise of the Senior Management Team identified on page 3 and include the Principals. The rules for determining the pay of Principals is laid down in School Teachers Pay and Conditions document (STPC). the Governing Body will seek external independent advice.

Trade Union Facility Time

Big Life Schools has a Trade Union recognition agreement with all the main teaching and support staff unions. At present we do not have any trade union representatives within school, however we liaise with the unions on a regular basis to ensure that any changes/amends required are consulted with effectively.

Big Life Schools is committed to involving staff in its day to day running and decision making. Staff are supported to take on lead roles including as Health and Safety Representatives and Wellbeing Champions.

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Connected Organisations including Related Party Relationships

The MAT operates in partnership and co-operation with the Big Life Company who provide staff and other resources at cost. The Big Life Company is a corporate trustee of Big Life Schools and transactions between these parties are fully disclosed in the notes 21 & 22 to the accounts.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The objects of Big Life Schools is in accordance with its Articles of Association "to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum."

Our Vision

"Together we can achieve the best future for our children and parents at the heart of Big Life Schools"

Big Life Schools began as a vision of local parents in Longsight and will always have parents and children leading the growth of the school. They will be involved in all aspects of the school community, their views will be listened to and valued.

Embracing Language and communication

Big Life Schools have a strong focus on language and communication and working with families to ensure children are confident communicators from an early age. We will celebrate and value all languages and recognise that communication and language is the foundation of children's attainment.

Aim

Our schools will deliver the highest standards of education and behaviour through the community, parents, teachers and children working together. Through learning together children, parents and teachers will:

- value and enjoy education;
- aspire to achieve the best we can;
- respect and value differences;
- express common values and standards;
- help each other to learn; and
- maximise the rich opportunities that life will bring.

Objective

Big Life School's objectives for when the pupils move onto their next stage of education are that all pupils will:

- be fluent in spoken English;
- have achieved success in English, Mathematics and Science;
- be confident and competent in the use of ICT;
- be able to integrate into the expected secondary school curriculum;
- have support from parents who understand the English education system and how best they can support their children's learning;
- enjoy learning;
- have experience and understanding of the wider world;
- respect the different gifts and values that each unique individual has;
- understand that learning is a lifelong process and that their parents as well as their teachers are partners in this process;
- be creative and courageous learners;

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

- demonstrate respect for others through their social skills, emotional development and behaviour; and
- be able and willing to challenge themselves to change their lives for the better.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have given due consideration to Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement. The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charities Commission.

Strategic report

Achievements and Performance - MAT (LCP)

The MAT continued to invest in the development of the Big Life Curriculum, with a dedicated postholder working with senior leaders in both schools. We now have standardised 'Statements of Intent' for every subject area and have shared plans in History and Geography. The schools are utilising the same programmes in Art and DT, Science and PHSE, and are using different but comparable schemes in Literacy, RE and PE. In the next year we will undertake moderation to evaluate effectiveness.

Achievements and Performance - Longsight Community Primary (LCP)

Longsight Community Primary completed its ninth full year as a school with 213 pupils on the roll and its main achievements during the year were

- Despite the challenges of high levels of staff absence due to Covid early in the Spring term we did not have to close any classes and have remained fully open all year.
- Children were happy, content and loved being in school. The school has felt very settled during the year due to a consistent approach in relation to behaviour management and rewards, effective supervision and support for our vulnerable children.
- Launching a comprehensive well-being strategy which was focussed on both staff and pupils.
- Pupils made very good progress post pandemic, despite ongoing challenges
- Extremely positive outcomes in Early Years, phonics, KS1 and KS2.
- A strong stable staff team which has been consistent in their delivery of teaching and learning. This has been corroborated by the QA report.
- Significant progress in respect of Curriculum Development and implementation. We continually track and assess across the whole curriculum and our teachers and subject leaders feel more confident in their delivery. The next steps are to enrich, adjust and refine.
- Our framework to improve Oracy skills in our children is now firmly in the implementation stage. We have delivered a number of sessions through our coaching programme to staff and have implemented Talk Tactics, discussion guidelines support Oracy in the classroom leading to our planned Oracy Showcase in July. We will continue to invest in Oracy through our Voice 21 commitment over the next two years.
- Attendance was 93.5%. This is higher than local comparisons and includes Eid absence. (95% not including Eid and term time holidays)
- Pupil voice has been key. We have made changes to the school menu, focused on the importance of uniform, and are looking at new clubs for September.
- We have 7 volunteers in school at present, making such a difference to us, and we hope making a difference to them.

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

LCP Key Priorities for 2022/23

LCP priorities for next year are noted in the table below

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Quality of Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve ARE outcomes in reading, writing and maths. To ensure that children with SEN make good progress and access high quality support through early identification and intervention To further develop our Oracy strategy by embedding it in our curriculum. Embed and quality assure the use of the calculation policy to ensure that strategies are robust. To ensure that language acquisition and story-telling are core to our T&L implementation strategy. Continue to refine, adjust and review the Big Life Curriculum To develop a consistent approach to handwriting and presentation. To increase parental engagement to support reading at home. To develop the progression of vocabulary from Early Years onwards To improve the quality of outdoor provision and learning in Early Years. To review the impact of our Read Write Inc reading and Phonics programme. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Behaviour and Attitudes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a consistent use of the daily rewards system and review and improve weekly and termly rewards. Develop playtime leadership roles and ensure that playtime is an enjoyable experience for all children Reduce the levels of Persistent Absence through regular tracking and action planning Improve overall school attendance to 96%, in line with national primary school attendance. Strengthen the impact of well-being week to include clear assessment procedures.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Personal Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase parental engagement with home learning and five ways to well-being Develop effective outdoor learning through coaching. Review the enrichment programme and extra-curricular activities Implement the Adventure Passport to all children and that enrichment activities and events link to the passport and our Big Life Curriculum. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Effectiveness of Leadership and Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult on the length of the school day. To increase the confidence of subject leaders through external Quality Assurance discussions. Ensure effective training and CPD for all staff with regards to effective provision for children with SEN. To ensure all staff are confident using the FFT tracking system and ensure assessment is robust. To develop the role of the Key Stage phase leaders

Achievements and Performance - Unity Community Primary (UCP)

Unity has completed its 7th year with 310 pupils on roll but having worked with 364 children through the year (35.8% transience). Key Achievements through the year were;

- Despite struggling with high levels of COVID in school and amongst staff, did not close any classes. School was fully open every day
- Established the Nurture room to support children struggling with SEMH
- Embedded Zones of Regulation and restorative practices and recently adapted a new 'Tick system'
- Teaching Assistant completed the year as a trainee teacher and now will be an ECT in Y2 from September.
- Completed statutory assessments- KS2 SATs and Y4 MTC for the first time with positive outcomes

Key Challenges that Unity overcame in 2021-22 were;

- Unstable staffing; impacts on planned school improvement. Maternity leaves and staff leaving mid-year, recruiting has been difficult.
- Staff absences; Planned interventions couldn't take place. Often supply agencies couldn't support. This has also impacted on budget as was unforeseen cost
- Children and Staff wellbeing; Behaviour of individual children, increase in SEMH need. Staff resilience low and increased workload for many.
- Levels of SEN across the school; increase in Social communication needs and SEMH, children requiring specialist provision
- Attendance, punctuality and transience; attendance 93.1% (today 83.7%) PA 19.6%, transience 34.5% with 105 moves in the year
- Impact of the pandemic on children's learning; lower attainment, language levels and levels of engagement.

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- Budget; Throughout the year, unfunded increases in energy costs, staffing costs and other supply costs.

UCP Key Priorities for 2022/23

UCP priorities for next year are noted in the table below

Quality of Education	Behaviour and Attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise attainment in all year groups to narrow the gap between Unity and national averages • To ensure that children with SEN make good progress and access high quality support through early identification and appropriate intervention • Develop Teaching and Learning so QFT is consistently good/outstanding across school • Developing teaching practice and interventions driven by evidence based current research • Embed Little Wandle phonics and further develop the teaching of reading across school so that a love of reading is ensured. • Further develop assessment processes in order to effectively track attainment and progress; migrate assessment processes to FFT aspire • Continue to review, refine and adjust the BLG curriculum and embed all units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure consistency through embedding positive Tick system with Zones of Regulation and restorative practice when dealing with challenging behaviour • Improve playtimes and lunchtimes through staff training, deployment of and development of the playground • Embed systems and processes in reporting incidents • Reduce the levels of persistent absence to improve attendance and punctuality • Develop PHSE curriculum; e-safety, RSE, pastoral curriculum
Personal Development	Leadership and Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase parental engagement to support reading at home and wider home learning • Develop a family engagement plan – focus on physical and mental health • Offer more parent workshops with a focus on physical and mental health • Develop roles and responsibilities within Y6 • Improve pupil voice processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop staff induction and staff handbook • To develop leadership team and review the roles and responsibilities • Recruit new parent governors and a staff governor and review roles and responsibilities within the governing body to maximise effectiveness • To further develop extra-curricular activities offered to children • To develop the use of the Hall/field/changing rooms for use by community • Develop specialism and career progression within TA workforce to improve retention

Performance Indicators

The Trustees consider the following as key performance indicators:

- Student Numbers - Funding is dependent on student numbers and is monitored as part of internal financial reporting.
- Ofsted grading as a measurement of current achievement and Improvements for the future – Latest Ofsted reports have graded both schools as 'Good'.
- Big Life School's Accreditation for Investors in volunteers was renewed and evidences the involvement of parents in all aspects of the school community.

Going Concern

Longsight Community Primary completed its ninth full year as a school with marginal surplus in the year. Unity Community Primary completed its seventh full year as an operating school and made a marginal surplus. On the basis of current results and planned budgets the Trustees are of the opinion that both schools of Big Life Schools have adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future. For this reason it has adopted the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The Trust continues to consider and review the strategic future of the Trust.

Financial Review

Big Life Schools is made up of two schools Longsight Community Primary (LCP) and Community Primary (UCP). Total income for the year amounted to £3,716,000 (2021: £3,735,000) the reduction in income was mainly due to the one off receipt of capital grant of £383,000 in the previous year.

The deficit on operations (excluding fixed asset funds) for the year was £245,000 (2021: Deficit £21,000).

The deficit for the year on Fixed Asset Funds was £201,000 (2021: Surplus £157,000).

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for the year ended 31 August 2022

The valuation of the defined benefit pension scheme liability has significantly reduced with a liability at the year end of £6k compared to the previous years liability of £529k.

The Balance Sheet shows net assets of £8,388,000 (2021: £8,097,000).

Reserves Policy

The aim of Reserves is to:

- Reduce the risks to delivery and operations should Income levels fall for a period.
- Allow entry into new projects and initiatives that require investment, be paid in arrears or that may not be profitable in the early periods.

Reserve level

The Trust has accumulated restricted reserves and a small level of unrestricted reserves as shown on the Balance Sheet. A reasonable reserves level is an aim of the Trust to allow its schools to respond to the changing needs of its pupils and the environment. Reserves are also held to maintain the capital assets of the company when required. The Trust reviewed its target reserves in October 2022 and set a target for free reserves of £552,000. The Trust continuously reviews its budgets and forecasts and is working towards achieving the target level of reserves. The year-end level of free reserves (excluding fixed asset reserves and pension deficit) at the year-end was £419,000 (2021: £466,000).

Investment Policy

At the year-end Big Life Schools used its bank balances as a current account only. The overriding policy is to ensure that funds are available when required to ensure that liabilities are met when due.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Big Life Schools reviews its strategic, financial, operational and people risks on a regular basis throughout the year. The management, Committees and Board all identify and manage risks and contribute to the Risk register and the management of risk. The Risk Register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on Longsight Community Primary and Unity Community Primary, the actions taken to date and actions to be taken. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which Big Life Schools be exposed, in particular those related to the operation and finances and are satisfied that there are systems in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. A formal review of Risk management is undertaken on a regular basis and the key controls used by the multi academy Trust include:

- Formal agendas for all committee and board activity;
- Terms of reference for all committees;
- Comprehensive planning, budgeting and management reporting;
- An organisational structure with clear lines of reporting;
- Formal written policies;
- Clear authorisation and approval levels; and
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

Principle Risks and Uncertainties

The schools' principle risks are concerned with the delivery of education services for its pupils. The trustees have identified the principle risks as follows:

- Achieving the attendance target of 96%
- Achieving educational outcomes in classes with high transience
- The need to grow the MAT
- The importance of appointing skilled teaching staff in future periods

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- Inflationary Pressures (Pay and Non-Pay)
- Cyber Security
- That buildings and external environments meet the needs of schools and nurseries.
- Maintaining provision and responding to post Covid risks

All risks including these principle risks and uncertainties are reviewed at each Governors' meeting.

Fundraising

The school does not undertake any major fundraising activity.

Plans for Future Periods

The plan for future periods is to continue to build on the good standards established at both schools and includes:

- Growth of UCP towards its full capacity of 420 pupils.
- The completion of the Big Life Schools curriculum development across both schools.
- Opening a new Free School in the Greater Manchester area

Auditor

Following the result of a tender exercise for external audit services, the auditors for 2022-23 will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

By order of the board of trustees on 8th December 2022 the trustees' report, incorporating the strategic report, has been approved by:



Andrea Heffernan
Trustee

Date: 8 December 2022

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Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2022

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Big Life Schools 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.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

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

Governance

The Information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Multi Academy Trust

MAT Trustees formally met 4 times during the year. In addition, the Local School Governors Boards (which included at least one MAT Trustee) also met 4 times to support effective oversight of funds through regular reporting and communication with the Board members.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows

	Name	Number of meetings attended	Out of possible meetings
MAT	Karina Carter	4	4
	Fay Selvan	4	4
	Emma Perry	3	4
	Andrea Heffernan	4	4
	Phil Trohear	4	4
	Lisa Brooks	3	4

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Governance Statement for the year ended 31 August 2022

Governance (continued)

Board of Governors

The Local School's Board of Governors formally met 4 times during the year and Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Governors was as follows:

Longsight Community Primary

	Name	Number of meetings of attended	Out of possible meetings
LCP	Charmain Alman	4	4
	Liam McDaid	3	4
	Susan Parker-Stone	3	4
	Alia Ali-Beag	4	4
	Sadaf Zahra	1	1
	Sandra Saleh	2	2
	Holly Eckersley	1	4
	Priscilla Nkwenti	3	4
	Jahanara Islam	1	2
	David Grimes	3	4

Unity Community Primary

	Name	Number of meetings of attended	Out of possible meetings
UCP	Fay Selvan	4	4
	Farheen Bizzari	2	4
	Jon Park	3	4
	Katy Burton	4	4
	Matt Wallis	4	4
	Nia Simpson	4	4
	Shaun Jackson	2	4

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Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2022

Review of Value for Money

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the MAT 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 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Improving educational outcomes of its students whilst operating within the financial constraints of the budget.
- Increasing collaboration between its academies, both educationally and financially, and the trust generating savings by negotiating trust wide contracts.
- Maximising third party income for its academies.
- Robust governance and oversight of Academy finances:

The Multi Academy Trusts' Directors are committed to ensuring that governance of the Multi Academy Trust's financial management is robust. The Directors and each Local Governing Body are cognisant of their responsibilities in ensuring that the Academy Trust resources are managed effectively, to support the objectives in the Multi Academy Trusts' Development Plan, whilst considering the long-term development of the Multi Academy Trust. Directors, Governors, Senior Leadership Teams and staff strive for the best possible outcomes for pupils, achieved at reasonable cost.

A qualified finance team provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, financial systems and controls. Its purpose is ensuring that Big Life Schools has a high quality staff team and operates efficient and effective management of its financial resources. It is responsible for

- Setting budgets and monitoring financial performance
- Approving financial policies and procedures

All Directors and Governors are required to complete a Register of Pecuniary Interests form annually. The opportunity to declare any pecuniary interests is provided at all governors' meetings. The MAT takes a prudent approach to expenditure and has an embedded Scheme of Financial Delegation and Financial Procedures that are supported by a formal purchase order system (EReq) to ensure that all expenditure is within appropriate limits. 2021-22 was the ninth year of operation for Longsight and the seventh year for Unity.

For both schools staffing structures are regularly reviewed in the year to ensure that they were fit for purpose and appropriate to the changing needs of its pupils and respond to support the attainment objectives of the MAT.

The MAT has a high proportion of skilled and experienced teaching and associate staff, who are very effectively deployed to provide best value. Teachers' performance management Governance Statement and support staff appraisal systems are in place, and HR policies, such as Managing Absence, Whistleblowing and Dignity at Work, are implemented.

The MAT's payroll is operated by the Big Life Company Ltd and detailed monthly reconciliations of payroll are undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that payments to staff are correct.

Each school has an on-site schools business manager and takes advantage of its corporate membership position with The Big Life Company. The schools have a service level agreement with Big Life Company to provide financial expertise, establish procedures and ensure robust internal control. The services provided by Big Life Company are at cost and it is viewed by the Trust as most cost effective way to manage the finances of the academy. Whilst we are in on-going discussions with the ESFA to achieve full compliance of the arrangement it should be noted that ESFA's Schools Resource Management Advisors report (July 2020) concluded that 'Big Life centralised services were offering good and robust value for money'

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Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2022

Individual budget holders are held accountable for the use of their budgets, and are helped by experienced accountants in sourcing best value.

The MAT is a member of a local cluster group of schools and can procure such services as Speech and Language Therapy as a group making significant savings. For services such as catering, cleaning and caretaking Big Life Schools joined the Big Life group to negotiate contracts as part of a larger agreement thus obtaining economies of scale. Full written quotes from several suppliers were obtained before any contract was agreed.

For all purchases over £5,000, Finance were able to review, obtain sufficient information and challenge the accounting officer for all significant expenditure requests before approval to ensure that an assessment of cost and benefits were duly considered. All purchases under £5,000 should be chosen from a list of approved suppliers.

Assessing value for money

The MAT is committed to providing a high quality, inclusive education for all. Through regular assessment we have a clear picture of the potential and progress of every student and provide support and extension work for those students for who it is required. Pupils that receive pupil premium are clearly identified and their individual performance reviewed to ensure that progress attainment is achieved.

The Chief Finance Officer scrutinises the academy's budget forecast, ensuring that it complies with agreed policies and procedures, whilst challenging on spending.

Departmental and curriculum allocations are allocated to specifically meet day to day needs, thus ensuring that significant expenditure remains within the control of senior management. Careful and prudent management of financial resources has ensured that the annual expenditure budget remains within the total income received for the year.

A report on the MAT from the ESFA School Resource Management Advisor concluded that '**Big Life Group were relatively new to education and their centralised services were offering good and robust value for money due to their extensive experience of providing community care services**'.

Governance Review - Effectiveness

The MAT assesses its effectiveness on an on-going basis by means of conducting Annual appraisals of trustees, Skills audits and formulating and monitoring Board development plan. During the year two new MAT Trustees and three new governors for Local governing Bodies were appointed to meet identified skills gaps. Additionally Board Development Plans identified training to be undertaken. Board Strategy and Forward View events were held to further assess and embed the strategic direction of the MAT.

The MAT formally met 4 times in the year and in addition Local Schools Board (which report to the MAT board) met 6 times in the year. At least one MAT Board member is also a member of the Local Schools Board. This arrangement ensures that effective oversight of funds is achieved.

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 multi 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 Big Life Schools for the year to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

Big Life Schools

Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2022

The Risk and Control Framework

The Multi 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 of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital Investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function and as required by the ESFA appointed an external company, Red-Rambler Ltd are appointed to perform an agreed programme of internal scrutiny work. Red-Rambler Ltd report to the Board (through the Audit and Risk Committee) on completion of the agreed work .On an annual basis Red Rambler Ltd prepare an annual report outlining key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help consider actions and evaluate year on year progress.

For 2021-22 the internal scrutiny work included 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 covered Cyber Security and Governance.

The internal scrutiny work concluded that there were no items of an urgent nature that required reporting to the Audit Committee and that the overall risk was graded as Low.

Review of Effectiveness

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


- the work of the peer reviewer;
- the work of the external and internal auditors; and
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the trustees and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 8th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Andrea Heffernan
Trustee



Keith Smith
Accounting Officer

Big Life Schools

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the year ended 31 August 2022

As accounting officer of Big Life Schools I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFSA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

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

I confirm that, other than the two Finance Issues highlighted below, there were no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date and if any instances are identified after the date of this statement these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and the ESFA.

Finance Issues

Matter 1

Related Party Transactions

As outlined in the previous years accounts the Trust had an on-going transaction with Big Life Company Ltd (the Trust's sponsor) to provide Central Support services for the two schools to the value of £134,304 (excluding VAT) which included Budgeting Finance Payroll, Health & Safety, Information Governance, Quality, IT, Communication & Marketing, Legal Support, Human Resources, Strategic & Business Planning and Company Secretarial Services.

The ESFA advised that the above transactions do not meet the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) and therefore the academy is currently in breach of the ATH and its funding agreement.

The actual cost (to Big Life Company), of the services provided under this transaction was £180,000. The amount invoiced to Big Life Schools was £134,304 which met the at cost requirement of the ATH in that the invoiced value represented 75% of actual costs.

The Trust is currently working on a list of actions issued by the ESFA, including the actions issued following a SRMA review, to ensure the RPT arrangements for 2023-24 are fully compliant.

Matter 2

Petty cash expenditure

During the year gifts to 4 members of staff totalling £63 were made and expenditure relating to events for staff were incurred totalling £387. These costs should have been recharged to the Big Life Group and the error has been rectified post year end, recharging the costs to the Big Life Group.



Keith Smith
Accounting Officer

Date: 8 December 2022

Big Life Schools

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the year ended 31 August 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 8 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Andrea Heffernan
Trustee

Big Life Schools

Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Trustees of Big Life Schools for the year ended 31 August 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Big Life Schools

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Big Life Schools (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education & 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

Big Life Schools

Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Trustees of Big Life Schools for the year ended 31 August 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Big Life Schools (continued)

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have 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 academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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 trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18 the trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Big Life Schools

Independent Auditor's Report **to the Board of Trustees of Big Life Schools** **for the year ended 31 August 2022**

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Big Life Schools (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the academy sector.
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 and Academies Trust Handbook 2020, both issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud.
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Big Life Schools
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Board of Trustees of Big Life Schools
for the year ended 31 August 2022

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy 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 academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Beever and Struthers

Sue Hutchinson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Beever and Struthers, Statutory Auditor

One Express

1 George Leigh Street

Manchester

M4 5DL

Date: ... 14 December 2022

Big Life Schools

Independent Reporting Accountants Assurance Report on Regularity for the year ended 31 August 2022

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 11 October 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education & 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 Big Life Schools 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 Big Life Schools and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Big Life Schools 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 Big Life Schools and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Big Life Schools' accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Big Life School's funding agreements with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 March 2015 and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Review and testing of financial systems of internal control
- Sample testing of transactions
- Discussions with management

Big Life Schools

Independent Reporting Accountants Assurance Report on Regularity for the year ended 31 August 2022

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Big Life Schools and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that 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.

Matter 1

Related Party Transactions - Our testing on related party transactions identified that the Service Level Agreement between Big Life Schools and its parent entity, The Big Life Company Limited is in excess of £20k per annum. As such it falls into the scope of the Academies Trust Handbook paragraph 5.42, which requires that Trusts obtain prior approval from the ESFA for all related party transactions in excess of £20k. Approval from the ESFA has been sought by the Trust previously, as per correspondence dated 14 November 2022, the ESFA have not approved the trust's related party transaction requests for the last four academic years, dating back to October 2019. The trust is therefore in breach of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) and its Funding Agreement.

Matter 2

Petty cash expenditure - Section 5.32 of the ATH requires expenditure to "achieve propriety and regularity in the use of public funds". The expenditure incurred by the Trust, further details on page 17, does not meet this requirement.

Details are also provided in the Accounting Officer's Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Internal Control.

Beever and Struthers

Sue Hutchinson FCCA
Reporting Accountant
Beever and Struthers
One Express
1 George Leigh Street
Manchester
M4 5DL

Date:...14 December 2022

Big Life Schools

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	13	13	383
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	174	3,529	-	3,703	3,352
Total		174	3,529	13	3,716	3,735
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	4,5	130	3,818	214	4,162	3,599
Other						-
Total	4,5	130	3,818	214	4,162	3,599
Net (expenditure)/income		44	(289)	(201)	(446)	136
Transfers between funds	12	-	(10)	10	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension schemes	12, 20	-	737	-	737	(389)
Net movement in funds		44	438	(191)	291	(253)

Big Life Schools

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reconciliation of funds						
Net movement in funds		44	438	(191)	291	(253)
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2021	12	187	(256)	8,166	8,097	8,350
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		231	182	7,975	8,388	8,097

All of the academy trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The notes on pages 29 to 52 form part of these accounts.

The comparative SOFA is included in note 23.

Big Life Schools
Balance Sheet
as at 31 August 2022
Company Number: 07945230

	Note	2022 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		7,975		8,166
			<u>7,975</u>		<u>8,166</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	41		218	
Cash at bank and in hand		663		463	
		<u>704</u>		<u>681</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(285)		(215)	
			<u>419</u>		<u>466</u>
Net current assets					
			<u>8,394</u>		<u>8,632</u>
Total assets less current liabilities					
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		(6)		(535)
			<u>8,388</u>		<u>8,097</u>
Total net assets					
Funds of the academy trust					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	12	7,975		8,166	
Restricted income fund	12	188		279	
Pension reserve	12	(6)		(535)	
		<u>8,157</u>		<u>7,910</u>	
Total restricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds	12		231		187
			<u>8,388</u>		<u>8,097</u>
Total funds					

The financial statements on pages 25 to 52 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 8th December 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



Andrea Heffernan
Trustee

Big Life Schools
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	15	210	(138)
Cash flows from investing activities			
	16	(10)	(486)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		200	(624)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2021		463	1,087
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2022	17	663	463
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of 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), is set out below.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), 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 (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by EFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Big Life Schools meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements for Big Life Schools are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Charities SORP 2019 (SORP 2019).

Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees 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 academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

The Trust continues to consider and review the strategic future of the Trust.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Income

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

- Grants Receivable

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- Donations

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

- Other Income

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

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.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

1.Accounting Policies (continued)

- Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

- Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £3,000 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. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. 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 leasehold land, at rates calculated to write-off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| • Long leasehold buildings | 50 years |
| • Furniture and equipment | 4 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.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy 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.

Leased Assets

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

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 10. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 note 11. 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 20, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Pensions Benefits (continued)

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 gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Department for Education.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

- Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, 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.

- Tangible fixed assets (see note 9)

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives, taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Critical areas of judgement

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the group's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.

The main critical areas relating to the financial statements are the overall profitability, the management of net current assets, the fixed assets value and during the year the management of financial matters within budget agreed by the Trustees. The year-end has resulted in a minor deficit for the year but maintained a positive net current assets position throughout the year to ensure that creditors are paid when due. The fixed assets position reflects the addition of the new school building and the depreciation of assets over their useful lives. Close performance against budget is monitored by management on a monthly basis and reported to the Trustees.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

2. Donations and Capital Grants

	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Capital grants	13	13	383
	13	13	383
<i>2021 analysis by fund</i>	383	383	383

During the year capital grant income of £13k (2021: £383k) was received.

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
DfES/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,798	2,798	2,435
Other DfES/ESFA Grants		387	387	469
	-	3,185	3,185	2,904
Other government grants				
Local Authority Grants	-	344	344	336
	-	344	344	336
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	174	-	174	112
	174	-	174	112
	174	3,529	3,703	3,352
2021 analysis by fund	112	3,240	3,352	3,352

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

4. Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Non-Pay Expenditure		Total 2022	Total 2021
	£'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	£'000	£'000
Academy Trust educational operations:					
• Direct costs	2,900	283	646	3,829	3,268
• Allocated support costs	134	-	199	333	331
	<u>3,034</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>845</u>	<u>4,162</u>	<u>3,599</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Depreciation	214	226
Fees payable to auditor for:		
• Audit	12	14
• Non-audit	2	2
	<u>226</u>	<u>242</u>

5. Charitable Activities

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Direct costs – educational operations	3,829	3,268
Support costs – educational operations	333	331
	<u>4,162</u>	<u>3,599</u>
Analysis of support costs:		
	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Support staff costs	133	148
Other support costs	166	156
Governance Costs	34	27
Total support costs	<u>333</u>	<u>331</u>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

5. Charitable Activities (continued)

Total cost analysis by Academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs 2022 £'000	Other Support Staff Costs 2022 £'000	Educational Supplies 2022 £'000	Other Costs (excl Dep'n) 2022 £'000	Total Costs 2022 £'000
Longsight Community Primary	1,043	-	125	121	1,289
Unity Community Primary	1,612	-	222	210	2,044
Big Life Schools Trust	-	368	-	247	615
Total	2,655	368	347	578	3,948

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs 2021 £'000	Other Support Staff Costs 2021 £'000	Educational Supplies 2021 £'000	Other Costs (excl Dep'n) 2021 £'000	Total Costs 2021 £'000
Longsight Community Primary	965	-	141	92	1,198
Unity Community Primary	1,253	-	239	118	1,610
Big Life Schools Trust	-	384	-	182	566
Total	2,218	384	380	392	3,374

6. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Wages and salaries	2,209	2,070
Social security costs	170	166
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	543	365
	2,922	2,601
Supply staff costs	101	1
	3,023	2,602

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

6. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	30	28
Administrations and support	66	51
Management	2	2
	<u>98</u>	<u>81</u>

The average number of persons employed by the academy during the period expressed as full time equivalents (35 hours per week) was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	27	24
Administrations and educational support	54	41
Management	2	2
	<u>83</u>	<u>67</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£70,000 - £80,000	3	2
£65,000 - £70,000	-	-
£60,000 - £65,000	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £320,114 (2021 £298,342).

Key management personnel costs include the CFO and CEO. Their salaries are met by a related party, The Big Life Company Limited. An element of the salary is recharged to the Academy Trust. The recharge of £61,790 is included in the key management personnel salary cost disclosed here. The full salary cost met by the related party is £203,109

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

7. Related party transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

During the year ended 31 August 2022, £nil remuneration was paid to the trustees and travel and subsistence expenses totalling £0 (2021: £0) was paid to no trustees.

The salary of the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer, a Trustee, is paid for as part of the service level agreement with Big Life Company on a cost only basis as detailed in note 21. During the year ended 31 August 2022 approximately £21,000 was charged to Big Life Schools and the full salary of £90,000 was paid by the Big Life Company (2020: £17,000).

8. Trustees and officer insurance

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

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Long Leasehold land and buildings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2021	9,029	361	478	9,868
Additions	-	23	-	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2022	9,029	384	478	9,891
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2021	911	350	441	1,702
Charged in year	177	13	24	214
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2022	1,088	363	465	1,916
Net book values				
At 31 August 2022	7,941	21	13	7,975
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 August 2021	8,118	11	37	8,166
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

10. Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade Debtors	1	101
VAT recoverable	9	32
Prepayments and accrued income	30	85
	<u>40</u>	<u>218</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade creditors	57	71
Intercompany	-	10
Other creditors	30	25
Accruals and deferred income	198	109
	<u>285</u>	<u>215</u>

Deferred income

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	52	66
Released from previous years	(46)	(66)
Resources deferred in the period	74	52
	<u>80</u>	<u>52</u>

Deferred income is income received in the reported financial period which is intended for use within a future period. The deferred income balance at the end of the financial year was due to the academy trust holding funds received in advance for School Meals, SEN and other MAT development projects.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

12. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	59	2,792	(2,753)	(45)	53
Pupil Premium	88	217	(305)	-	-
Property Sinking Fund	100	-	-	35	135
Covid Premium	32	23	(55)	-	-
Pension reserve	(535)	6	(214)	737	(6)
Other Funds	-	491	(491)	-	-
	<u>(256)</u>	<u>3,529</u>	<u>(3,818)</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>182</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/EFA grants	8,166	13	(214)	10	7,975
	<u>8,166</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>(214)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7,975</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>7,910</u>	<u>3,542</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>8,157</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	187	174	(130)	-	231
	<u>187</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>(130)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>231</u>
Total funds	<u>8,097</u>	<u>3,716</u>	<u>(4,162)</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>8,388</u>

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

- General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust's academies.
- Other restricted funds comprise funds received from the DfE, EFA, Local Authorities and other government bodies for the use of trust development.
- Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

During the year a transfer of £10k was made from the GAG Fund to Restricted Fixed Asset Funds in respect of fixed asset additions.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

12. Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	648	2,435	(2,508)	(516)	59
Pupil Premium	42	210	(164)	-	88
Other Funds	-	552	(552)	-	-
Sinking Fund	70	-	-	30	100
Covid Premium	-	43	(11)	-	32
Pension reserve	(93)	-	(53)	(389)	(535)
	<u>667</u>	<u>3,240</u>	<u>(3,288)</u>	<u>(875)</u>	<u>(256)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/EFA grants	7,523	383	(226)	486	8,166
	<u>7,523</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>(226)</u>	<u>486</u>	<u>8,166</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>8,190</u>	<u>3,623</u>	<u>(3,514)</u>	<u>(389)</u>	<u>7,910</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	160	112	(85)	-	187
Total unrestricted funds	<u>160</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>(85)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>187</u>
Total funds	<u>8,350</u>	<u>3,735</u>	<u>(3,599)</u>	<u>(389)</u>	<u>8,097</u>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

12 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances were allocated as follows:

	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
Longsight Community Primary	542	540
Unity Community Primary	59	57
Big Life Schools	(172)	(131)
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	429	466
Restricted fixed asset fund	7,965	8,166
Pension Reserve	(6)	(535)
	8,388	8,097

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,975	7,975
Current assets	231	472	-	703
Current liabilities	-	(285)	-	(285)
Pension scheme liability	-	(6)	-	(6)
Total net assets	231	181	7,975	8,388

Fund balances at 31 August 2021
represented by

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,166	8,166
Current assets	272	410	-	682
Current liabilities	-	(215)	-	(215)
Pension scheme liability	-	(535)	-	(535)
Total net assets	272	(340)	8,166	8,098

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

14. Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments.

15. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	291	(253)
<i>Adjusted for:</i>		
Capital grants from DfES and other capital income	(13)	(383)
Depreciation (note 9)	214	226
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 20)	(530)	442
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	178	(105)
Increase in creditors & provisions	70	(65)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	210	(138)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(23)	(869)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	13	383
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by financing activities	(10)	(486)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

17. Analysis of cash

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	463	200	663
Total cash outflow and cash equivalents	463	200	663

	At 1 September 2020 £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,087	(624)	463
Total cash outflow and cash equivalents	1,087	(624)	463

18. Contingent liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any assets for which a Government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay the EFA the same proportion of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined with reference to

- the value, at the time, of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

19. Members' liabilities

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

20. Pension and similar obligations

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 Greater Manchester Pension Fund. 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.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

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 teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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 £355,000 (2020/21: £326,000).

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

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

The total pension contributions paid to TPS in the period amounted to £355,000 (2020/21: £326,000) of which employers contributions were £251,000 (2020/21: £232,000).

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

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

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £94,000 (2021: £78,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £70,000 (2021: £58,000) and employees' contributions totalled £24,000 (2021: £20,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.2 per cent for employers and between 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
Rate of increase in salaries	3.8%	3.65%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.05%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25%	1.65%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.05%	2.9%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums (pre Apr 08/post Apr 08)	55%	55%

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.3	20.5
Females	23.2	23.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.6	21.9
Females	25.1	25.3

Sensitivity Analysis

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
	£000	£000
Discount Rate +0.1%	18	14
Discount Rate -0.1%	(18)	(14)
Mortality Assumptions – 1 year increase	(18)	(16)
Mortality Assumptions – 1 year decrease	18	16
CPI rate +0.1%	(18)	(14)
CPI rate -0.1%	18	14

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

20. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were;

	Fair value at 31 August 2022	Fair value at 31 August 2021
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	299	237
Debt instruments	61	50
Property	39	23
Cash	35	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	433	333
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Present value of scheme liabilities	(439)	(868)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit in the scheme	(5)	(535)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was 1.3% (2021:2.3%).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2020 £'000	2021 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(267)	(107)
Interest income on Assets	6	-
Interest cost on obligations	(17)	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating charge	(278)	(111)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September	869	300
Current service cost	267	107
Interest cost	17	9
Employee contributions	24	20
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss	(738)	433
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August	439	869
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

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

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September	333	207
Interest income	6	5
Employer contributions	70	58
Employee contributions	24	19
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(1)	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August	432	333
	<hr/>	<hr/>

21.Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the period of account.

The Multi Academy Trust has a Service Level Agreement with the Big Life Company Ltd, The Corporate shareholder of Big Life Schools. In that agreement The Big Life Company supplies specific roles including Group Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Clerk to the Governors. The agreement also provides for the supply of various central services such as Finance, Legal and Payroll services, Communications and Marketing activity and Clerk to the Governors.

In addition to this the Big Life Company Ltd pays all staff costs and re-charges these costs to the Trust. There is no profit gained from the re-charges made to Big Life Schools.

For 2021/22 all costs amounted to £2,895,000 of which the activities relating to the SLA amounted to £134,304.

For 2020/21 all costs amounted to £2,743,000 of which the activities relating to the SLA amounted to £129,984

As at 31 August 2022 Big Life Company owed £795 to Big Life Schools.

As at 31 August 2021 Big Life Schools owed £8,570 to Big Life Company.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

21. Central Services

The academy trust has provided the following central service to its academies during the year:

- Finance
- Legal
- Payroll & HR services
- Communications Marketing and Training
- Time from dedicated and qualified management and Clerk to the Governors.

The trust charges for these services on the following basis:

A not for profit, real cost basis apportioned to the relative size of the school based on GAG income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Longsight Community Primary	81	79
Unity Community Primary	105	99
Unity Nursery	13	17
	<hr/> 199 <hr/>	<hr/> 195 <hr/>

The central Academy Trust currently operates on a planned deficit as resources are invested in cross academy projects such as curriculum development and community engagement. As the Trust grows the central trust will break even.

Big Life Schools

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

23 Comparative SOFA

The SOFA for 2020-21 is shown below

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	383	383	122
<i>Charitable activities:</i> Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	112	3,240	-	3,352	3,268
Total		112	3,240	383	3,735	3,390
Expenditure on:						
Transfer on Conversion	25	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i> Academy trust educational operations	4,5	85	3,288	226	3,599	3,308
Other						-
Total	4,5	85	3,288	226	3,599	3,308
Net income/(expenditure)		27	(48)	157	136	82
Transfers between funds	13	-	(486)	486	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (loss)/gain on defined benefit pension schemes	12, 20	-	(389)	-	(389)	131
Net movement in funds		27	(923)	643	(253)	213