

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

TO PARENTS & CARERS



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Letter from our pupils

Dear parents and carers,

We are very proud and happy to be pupils in an Elliot Foundation school due to the things we learn, the people we meet, and the amazing extra-curricular activities! Elliot schools offer once in a lifetime opportunities and experiences which help us to learn in creative and engaging ways. Some of our most enjoyable memories from last year include competitive team sports, library visits, taking part in the Young Voices Choir, residential trips, museum trips, and a DT project with the Royal Opera House where we created a set design for Alice in Wonderland. More than anything else, parents and carers should know that an exemplary education across a wide range of subjects is provided for students at Elliot Foundation schools. We then use our knowledge and skills in creative and practical ways.

Our schools are safe places to learn. We have adults that care for us and respect our feelings. They help us to become better people. We love to celebrate and learn about other people and their religions and cultures. It's so important to learn about this because it makes us more accepting and respectful of others.

Being at an Elliot Foundation School is an amazing experience due to excellent teachers and interactive lessons. It's filled with kind children and supportive staff members! Everyone is friendly!

We enjoy a warm and well-organised environment that prepares us to achieve our future goals and helps us learn and achieve together. Our school is motivational, teachers want to push you and see you succeed. I feel like I am being well prepared for secondary school. We are excited to continue to develop and grow from the fantastic foundation that we have been provided with during our primary education!

This letter was created by amalgamating responses from:

Jasman, Gurjot, Keyaan, Nic, & Raizel
Year 6 House Captains at George Betts Primary Academy.

Hibba, Heenal and Seerat
Year 6 students at Hillingdon Primary School

Oscar, Jacob and Ugne
Year 6 students at Millfield Primary School



About us

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust (TEFAT) is a charitable trust committed to equipping children with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary to succeed in learning and life. We aim to nurture all our children to become active and responsible citizens in their respective communities. Research shows that maintaining high expectations helps children succeed, and this conviction is reflected in our motto:

“Where children believe they can,
because teachers know they can”

We create the environment that helps schools succeed. We ensure schools thrive by keeping them safe, solvent, legally compliant and educationally enriching. Within these constraints, we encourage schools to develop an educational vision that meets the needs of their children and their respective communities. Curricula across our schools differ and we resist a one-size-fits-all approach.

Each of our schools is run according to our shared values:



**Put children
first**



Be safe



**Be kind &
respect all**



Be open



Forgive



**Make a
difference**



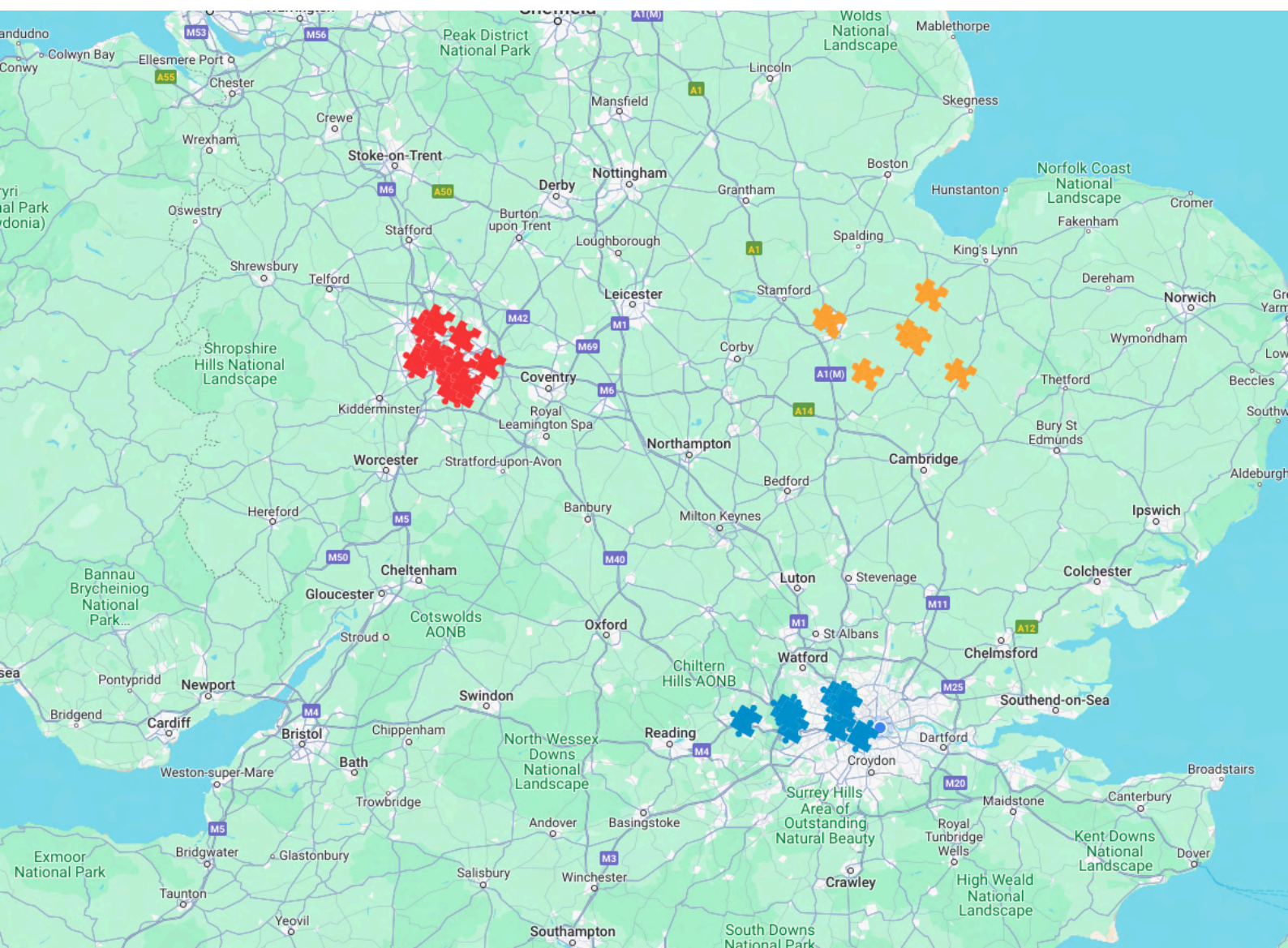
Our schools

We enable 33 schools in East Anglia, London, and the West Midlands to deliver quality education. Our primary schools serve over 14,000 pupils (700 more than last year). Our continued growth has allowed us to invest in more expertise to support our schools.

We were proud to welcome Hollywood Primary school to our family in 2023. Three more schools in the West Midlands are likely to join us within the next year.

In the following pages, our schools have shared an image and message that represent their school or show a snapshot of school life from the past year.

Below: Our three hubs are shown in red (West Midlands schools), yellow (East Anglia schools) and blue (London schools).



Our schools

Billesley Primary School

Our Billesley Girls' Football squad work extremely hard and brilliantly in the competitive football games they attend throughout the year.



Cavalry Primary School

Children at Cavalry can access a wide variety of after school clubs and often take part in sports tournaments and festivals.



Chandos Primary School

At Chandos Primary School, we are proud to have been awarded the 'School of Sanctuary Award' which celebrates our rich and diverse culture and our warm welcome to families from all over the world. We are extremely proud of our school community and our ethos of growing, learning and achieving together.



Childs Hill Primary School

Our curriculum is engaging because of the themes we follow, the knowledge we share, and the skills we develop in our children. Childs Hill Art Week 2024 was a huge success during which children across the school collaborated on activities and projects which have further enriched our environment.



Year 2 pupils working to create a mosaic sculpture with a visiting artist

Our schools

Claremont Primary School

Our local community is changing and Claremont is at the heart of the progress and development. Opportunity broadens horizons by opening children's eyes to the world. We are working in partnership with local services and businesses to ensure a bright future for our pupils.



Junior Travel Ambassadors working as 'mini reporters' on the opening on the new Brent Cross West to St Pancras line

Croft Academy

Sport at Croft is not just about physical activity, it is an approach to fostering the happiness and well-being of our children. Through sports, we learn valuable life skills, build social connections, and experience the sheer joy of play, creating a positive foundation for overall development.



The Croft cricket team on their return from a local cricket match.

Elm Road Primary

Elm Road feeling proud after receiving the National Nurturing Schools Award.



Eyrescroft Primary School

At Eyrescroft, we believe in making learning purposeful, fun and engaging. This means learning is as 'hands on' as possible whenever appropriate. The children love our outdoor learning opportunities.



Our schools

George Betts Primary Academy

Children enjoying enrichment experiences beyond the classroom!



Greenside Primary School

Greenside concluded the 2022-2023 academic year with a delightful summer event: the eagerly awaited performance of Mary Poppins. From our youngest nursery pupils to those in Year 6, children demonstrated their talents in singing, dancing, and acting, bringing the classic tale to life outdoors.



Griffin Primary School

Griffin was incredibly lucky to be chosen to be one of six schools nationwide to take part in Primary Play Your Part, a project run by The Old Vic. Our Year 4 & 5 pupils collaborated with professional directors over a six-week rehearsal period to support putting on an in-school production: 'The Present', written by Bafta nominated Laura Dockrill.



Highlees Primary School

Highlees are very excited to announce we have successfully achieved the Well Being Award for schools. We are very excited to continue our well being work with our pupils, families and staff.



Our schools

Hillingdon Primary School

The arts are a key part of our curriculum and our children embrace all the opportunities they have to express themselves and celebrate their successes.



Hollywood Primary School

Embracing the belief that the future of education and employment will revolve around science and technology, we are dedicated on a journey to incorporating these elements into our educational journey, providing our pupils with the best start in today's dynamic technological landscape.



John Locke Academy

In 2023, we had visits from numerous authors and poets, our choir took part in the Primaries Spring Festival @ The Beck Theatre, and our Y4 children performed at Young Voices at the Wembley Arena and recorded a charity single raising money for charity. We received Gold Artsmark recognising our arts curriculum and the Wellbeing Award for supporting emotional wellbeing and mental health.



Year 6 visiting the Battle of Britain bunker and learning about its link to Hillingdon

Kings Norton Primary School

A year of excellence in sport! We really value the physical and mental well-being of our pupils here at Kings Norton. Here's our swimming team winning the area gala. One of many sporting achievements this year.



Our schools

Kings Rise Academy

At Kings Rise, we nurture and encourage the children's awe and wonder of the world around them.



Millfield Primary School

We value learning experiences that foster our philosophy of Engage, Enquire, Excel. Being curious about the past helps us understand the present and the future. History is fun and engaging when we bring it alive.



Nene & Ramnoth

We love developing our design and technology knowledge through practical investigations that prepare for the future.



Netherbrook Primary School

This year, Netherbrook pupils saved up their plastic sweets tubs, biscuit tubs and cracker tubs from Christmas to make 'Tub Towers' in their classrooms. Netherbrook Primary School recycled 594 tubs with 8p from every tub going towards MacMillan Cancer Support.



Our schools

Parkfield Primary School

Parkfield Nursery children explore every day alongside our trusted adults. Our year focused on talk, positive interactions and effective questioning.



Pinkwell Primary School

We have four core values which underpin all of the work that we do; respect, resilience, collaboration, and empathy. In 2023, Pinkwell achieved a Young Carers in Schools Award (pictured) and a Sports Games Gold award,



Ramsey Spinning Infants

Our learning values are at the heart of our school community and are promoted in all aspects of school life.



Ramsey Junior School

We are passionate about providing our children with a range of enriching learning experiences and opportunities which go beyond the classroom.



Our schools

Rounds Green Primary School

We use every opportunity across our curriculum to give children memorable experiences to engage and broaden their knowledge of the world around them.



Shireland Hall Primary Academy

At Shireland Hall, children gain memorable, meaningful experiences which equip them with lifelong skills for their future. Year 5 and 6 pupils below enjoyed a visit from Olympic swimmers at the launch of our on-site pop up pool.



Shirestone Academy

At Shirestone Academy, we believe that creativity and the arts help our children to become confident, resilient, and articulate learners. We harness these qualities from an early age and develop them at every possible opportunity.



Cippenham School

At Cippenham, each one of us is working at being the best we can be. We are all on an exciting learning journey. We are the generation who will come together to make our amazing world an even cleaner, safer, kinder, happier place.



Our schools

The Hyde School

At The Hyde, we pay attention to every little detail!



Tiverton Academy

One school, many talents. We encourage all of our children to learn through curiosity, exploration and collaboration. We take every opportunity to learn from nature, seasonal experiences, the local area and the community to enrich our curriculum.



Westwood Primary School

At Westwood, we have been developing our forest school provision to support our children's resilience and team work.



Woods Bank Academy

Woods Bank Academy anti-bullying ambassadors taking part in our whole school performance to celebrate and promote kindness.



Inclusion

Children who attend our schools come from varied backgrounds. Over one third of our children are supported through pupil premium grants, approximately 43% have English as an additional language (EAL), and 19% have a special educational need or disability (SEND). This makes our learning environment a melting pot of culture, experience, and diversity.

Last summer, Stephen Unwin, a campaigner for the rights and opportunities of people with learning disabilities, came to talk to all of our principals. He reminded us of two things. Firstly, how important it is to listen to the families of our young people, as families know the child best. Secondly, that across our schools we continue to develop ways of engaging with, respecting and discovering what it is that those young people need to flourish. Creativity and a 'can-do' approach are essential.

If inclusion means anything, it is that all children across the Trust matter. All of our pupils are different and progress for some will look very different. It is our role as educators to recognise those small steps, to support pupils to be proud of their own achievements and to adapt teaching to best support them.

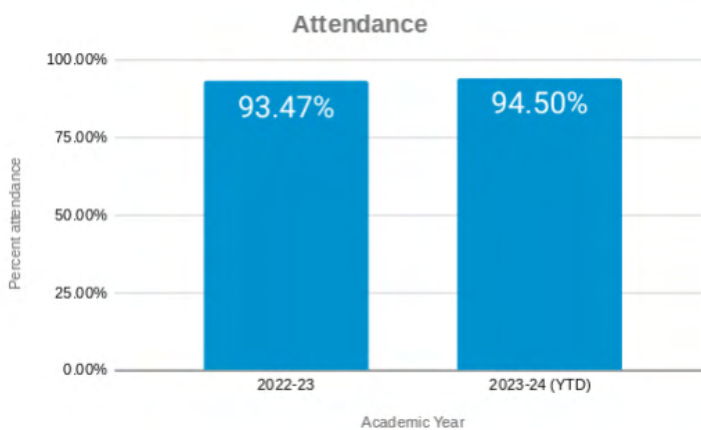
All of our schools continue to work hard to improve the achievement and wellbeing of pupils with additional needs and to do so in partnership with colleagues, families and professionals.



Attendance & attainment

A good primary education is crucial to giving children the best chance in life. There is no single measure of success, but here are some of the indicators that we think are important.

Attendance

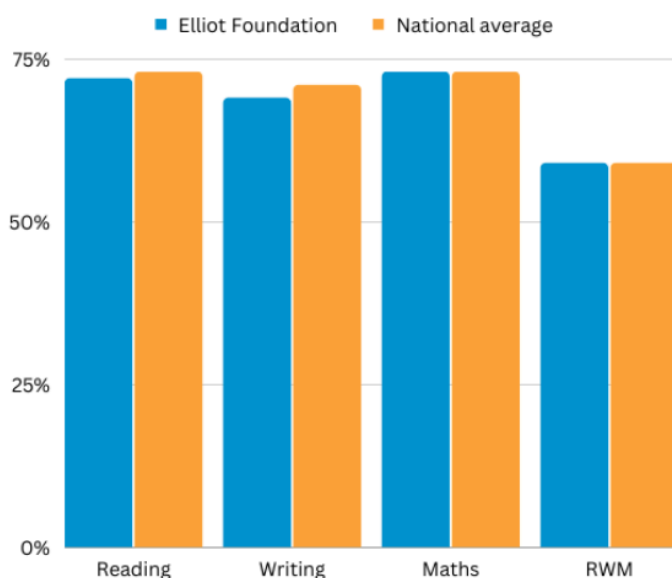


For children to benefit from education they must first be in school. Nationally school attendance has not yet recovered from the Covid pandemic...

At this point last academic year, our attendance was 93.47%. This year it is 94.5%, but we will not be satisfied until it is consistently back above 95%. For comparison the national average so far this year is 94.9%.

These percentages may seem high but they represent over 150,000 lost days of education and with your help we can do better!

Attainment



Primary school children are tested in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Year 2 (Key Stage 1) and at the end of Year 6 (Key Stage 2). These tests are known as SATs and together with Phonics Screening Results and Times Tables Tests they are used to infer the quality of teaching in schools.

Last year, 57% of Key Stage 1 children and 59% of Key Stage 2 children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. In addition 79% passed their Phonics Screening Test in Year 1.

Ofsted

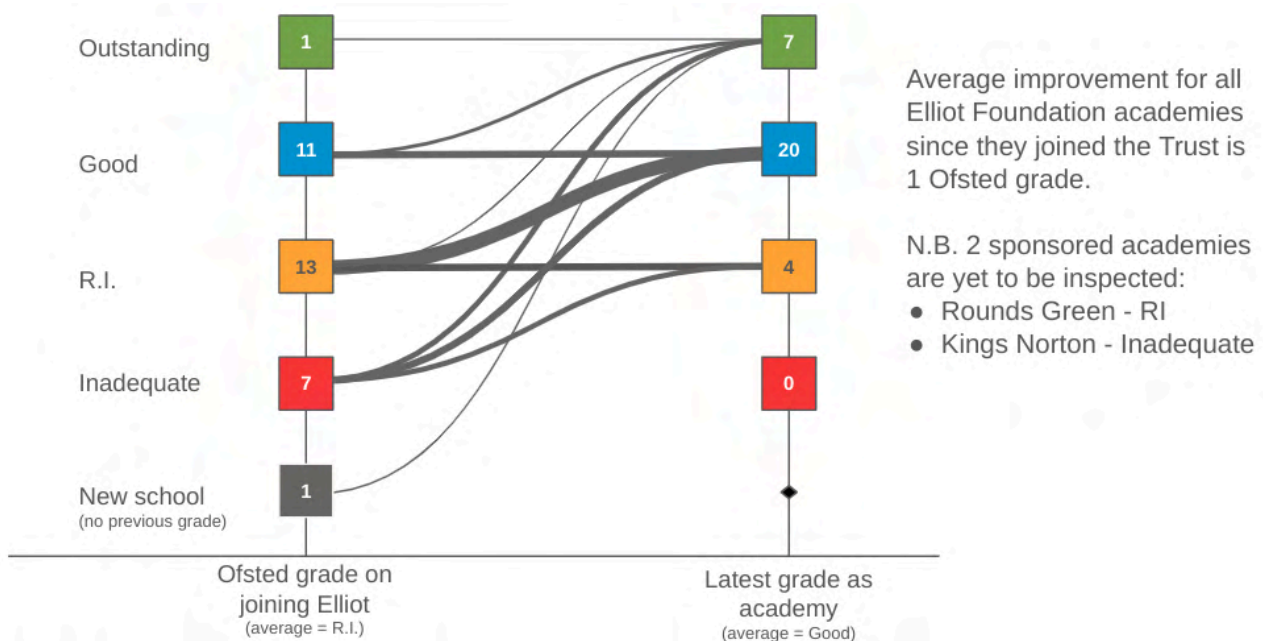
Ofsted is an independent government agency responsible for inspecting the quality of education in state-funded schools. Rather than just looking at test results in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, inspectors look at children's whole school experience. Although this is a page about Ofsted, it is important to recognise that inspection reports are merely indicators of schools' strengths and weaknesses on a given day. They are not the be all and end all judgements of school quality. There was much criticism of Ofsted last year following Ruth Perry's tragic death and the inquest that followed. We believe that the responsibility for the psychological security of our headteachers and indeed all of our staff lies with us as their employer. We work hard to ensure that accountability is shared and does not become an unreasonable burden upon anyone. There are four potential Ofsted ratings, Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, and Inadequate.

Seven Elliot Foundation schools were inspected by Ofsted last year:

- Shirestone remained "Outstanding" in all categories
- Cippenham and Greenside remained "Good"
- Netherbrook improved from a declining good to "Good" across the board and Kings Rise improved from "Requires Improvement" to "Good"
- Westwood and Griffin remained "Requires Improvement"

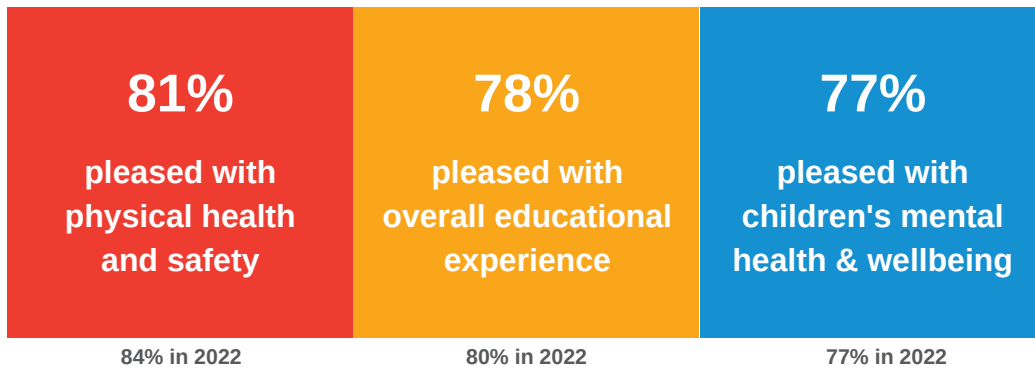
Overall, 87% of Elliot Foundation schools are currently judged good or better. This is a transformation from the 36% of schools considered good or better at the point they joined the Trust.

The graph below shows the improvement in Ofsted Grades for our schools since they joined us:



Parent feedback

Each term, we ask parents how they feel about the education offered to their children and last year 78% of parents who responded remained positive - down three points on the previous year.



We also asked our departing year six children how they felt about their school. Over 92% of children said they felt their teachers wanted them to do well and 75% of them would recommend their schools to other children.



Our goals

We believe it is important to be open about the things that we need to improve. Last year we shared four key aims.



Improve attendance overall and increase our support to children missing out on their education

- The number of children who missed more than 50% of their education last year halved; decreasing from 34 to 16
- Overall attendance has risen significantly since last year, but at 94.5% for the period Sept 23-Feb 24, it is still behind the national average for primary schools (94.9%)



Decrease the number of children with repeat suspensions, whilst aiming not to permanently exclude any child

- Unfortunately, we have failed on this goal as repeat suspensions have increased significantly to 163 per year, compared to 53 the year prior
- We also had to permanently exclude one child last year, bringing the total number of permanently excluded children to 13 over 12 years
- Behaviour will be a key target for improvement in the next year



Increase the number of children attaining age-related expectations in reading, writing, and maths without narrowing the curriculum

- Last year, 59% of our children achieved national Key Stage 2 targets; up one percentage point from the previous year and in line with the national average
- 79% of our children passed the phonics screening test in Y1; up four points from 2022-23



Improve the percentage of staff who feel valued and supported by making progress on our inclusivity and the development we offer

- 70% of our staff would recommend us as an employer; up two points from the previous year

The arts

We have a rich arts offer across the Trust. Not only do we seek to encourage our children's confidence and self-expression, we also support our staff in working together through training and networks.



Royal Opera House Partnership

Last year, every school in the Trust came together at the Royal Opera House to perform songs from Mozart's the Magic Flute - this involved over 2,000 children!

Staff in all of our schools attended training sessions in singing and design. Even our head teachers had a go at singing opera! We have continued to work alongside the Royal Opera House this year on a leadership development programme called Cultural Champions. This is to support staff in our schools to lead the arts of opera, ballet and set design for themselves.

In each region, there have been many exciting opportunities for children to develop their talents in the arts. We are proud to be part of the Arts Council England flagship scheme Creativity Collaboratives, exploring creativity in the classroom across a three year programme. We have learned about using non-verbal communication through dance and drama in the classroom, developed a TV channel, performed the story of the English Civil War, and gone exploring and 'got lost' in the hills of Birmingham. The work of our West Midlands Arts Ambassador Network was used as a case study by education researcher Sarah B. Davies.



Sports



Above: A group of Billesley students attend tennis coaching

Rackets Cubed is a registered sports charity and partner of the Elliot Foundation. Their core programme focuses on getting children active after school via racket-based sports, providing additional STEM tuition, and improving pupil diets. This gives children the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential, improve their physical and mental health, and gain confidence. Currently, three Elliot schools are taking part in the programme with more expected to join next year. The programme is offered to students for free and is only offered to schools with a high proportion of disadvantaged children.

Over the past 2 years, between 50-55 children from Billesley Primary School have attended sessions each week which involve a tennis lesson delivered by a qualified coach for 45 minutes, a maths lesson for 45 minutes, and healthy food.

“

Our current year 6's have completed their full year and have had an amazing experience. During the second half of this academic year, the opportunity will now be handed to our year 5 students. We have seen an improvement in confidence and enjoyment in our children in both maths and sports. We look forward to watching our new year 5's develop within the programme.

Billesley Primary School staff member

”

Sports



TEFAT Games

In July, schools across the West Midlands participated in the TEFAT Games, an inter-school sports competition which took place at Tipton Sports Academy. Children took part in 3 events: a howler throw, a 40m sprint and a long jump. During the afternoon, children had the opportunity to take part in some other Olympic-style events such as wrestling, archery and hurdles.

This was the first time schools had competed face to face, with previous events restricted by the pandemic.

Taking Pools to Playgrounds

Only half of Year 6 children in the Black Country can swim 25m. To combat this, Active Black Country have been creating 'pop-up pools' where children can learn to swim.

A group of Year 5 children at Shireland Hall participated in a Speedo event that took place in our on-site pop-up pool. The children took part in lessons and games that were led by Olympic, Paralympic, or otherwise professional competitive swimmers: Adam Peaty, Ellie Simmonds, Michael Gunning, Matt Richards and Anna Hopkin.

The event was featured in major news outlets such as the Guardian and 'Taking Pools to Playgrounds', a report on the scheme which included one of our students, was distributed in Parliament.

Taking Pools to Playgrounds

Exploring innovative ways to reverse declining rates of school swimming



Published
January 2024

speedo

Active
Black Country
Creating an active, healthy region

Sustainability

We've committed to embedding sustainability throughout our organisation.

Why are we doing this?

Climate change, species loss, and other environmental degradation are global phenomena that risk the health and wealth of inhabitants around the world. It is our duty as an education provider to ensure that our community is knowledgeable about major issues affecting our nation and the global community, including the impact of their everyday actions. We also believe we have a social responsibility to minimise the harms we may enact on the environment as an organisation, either directly or indirectly. The Department for Education has a net zero strategy and encourages multi-academy trusts to take actions to reduce our impacts and create green spaces for pupils.

As a charity whose primary objective is to prepare the next generation for success, it is only appropriate that we also do our part to ensure that future generations inherit a planet that is able to sustain their health and happiness.

What are we doing?

We've committed to net zero emissions by 2030 as part of the LetsGoZero campaign and are currently implementing a Green Strategy that helps us work towards that goal.

Our green strategy includes:

- A reduction in school energy and gas usage through investment in insulation, LED lights, a boiler replacement programme, and energy reduction education programmes
- A Green Curriculum Toolkit that advises schools how to embed 4 sustainability themes into existing curriculums.
- Engaging staff and pupils to consider their individual impacts on the environment



Sustainability

Who is implementing this?

We have a cross-departmental working group that brings together school-based staff and staff in our finance, education, communications, governance, and estates departments. Many of these staff are directors or area leads who embed sustainability into their areas of work.

However, much of the change comes from within individual schools. This includes work by our:

- **Green leaders** - staff who ensure sustainable threads are embedded within the curriculum
- **Green ambassadors** - staff who instigate, record, and implement school 'pledges' that result in lasting sustainable school-level change
- **School eco-councils** - a place for our pupils to exercise environmental leadership and provide pupil voice in our sustainability changes

What changes have happened already?

We've finished an LED programme that replaced high energy fluorescent lights for low energy LED lighting in all our schools. This change has reduced our energy usage from lighting by 65% which has also created cost savings for our schools.

All our schools have made green pledges. Some school-led changes include:

- A battery/printer cartridge recycling point in the main reception at Tiverton
- Compost bins added at Netherbrook Primary
- Microplastic survey of school grounds at Kings Rise Academy
- Planting at local care homes at Nene Infant School
- Gardening competition at Kings Norton Primary

We're also making a wider impact within the sector. For example, Greenside Primary was recently used as a case study at the BETT education conference.

Final thoughts

With over 14,000 pupils and 34 sites, we know that small impacts can cumulatively make a big difference. Working with all of our schools, we have a great opportunity for transformative change that impacts not only our communities, but through collaboration with other schools and trusts, the wider sector.

Supporting communities

100,000 boxes

full of food and other
essentials distributed to
families in need



Supporting communities

Community Box

The Community Box programme started in 2020 as a way to provide food during COVID-19 and has continued as a way to support our most vulnerable families with cost-of-living challenges and help our pupils receive a nutritious diet. Roughly two thirds of TEFAT schools are involved in the scheme with Millfield Primary and Rounds Green both joining in the last year. We deliver over 800 boxes of food and other essentials each week to families across the Trust and we're proud to announce that between March 2020 and February 2024, we've distributed over 100,000 boxes. This equates to around £3.5m worth of assistance to those in need. The food we give out is surplus and at risk of being wasted in supermarket supply chains. So the scheme has the additional benefit of reducing food waste.

We'd like to thank everyone who makes this possible, from our national partners such as Rackets Cubed, to our staff and volunteers who pack, supervise, or organise the food distribution.

Community hubs

Repurposing unused space on school estates, such as vacant caretaker's houses, we are creating community hubs that give organisations a place to serve members of the communities surrounding our schools. Highlees Primary School has been selected as the first pilot and minor works were completed to make the space suitable for use. We are currently in discussions with Peterborough Council surrounding the provision of services to be hosted at Highlees and have hired a part-time coordinator to grow the hub programme.

Other programmes

All our schools offer second-hand uniform and the vast majority host breakfast clubs. Many schools offer additional services to their local communities, whether that's hosting English lessons for parents, food pantries, offering free books and children's winter clothing, or cooking hundreds of meals for the homeless.

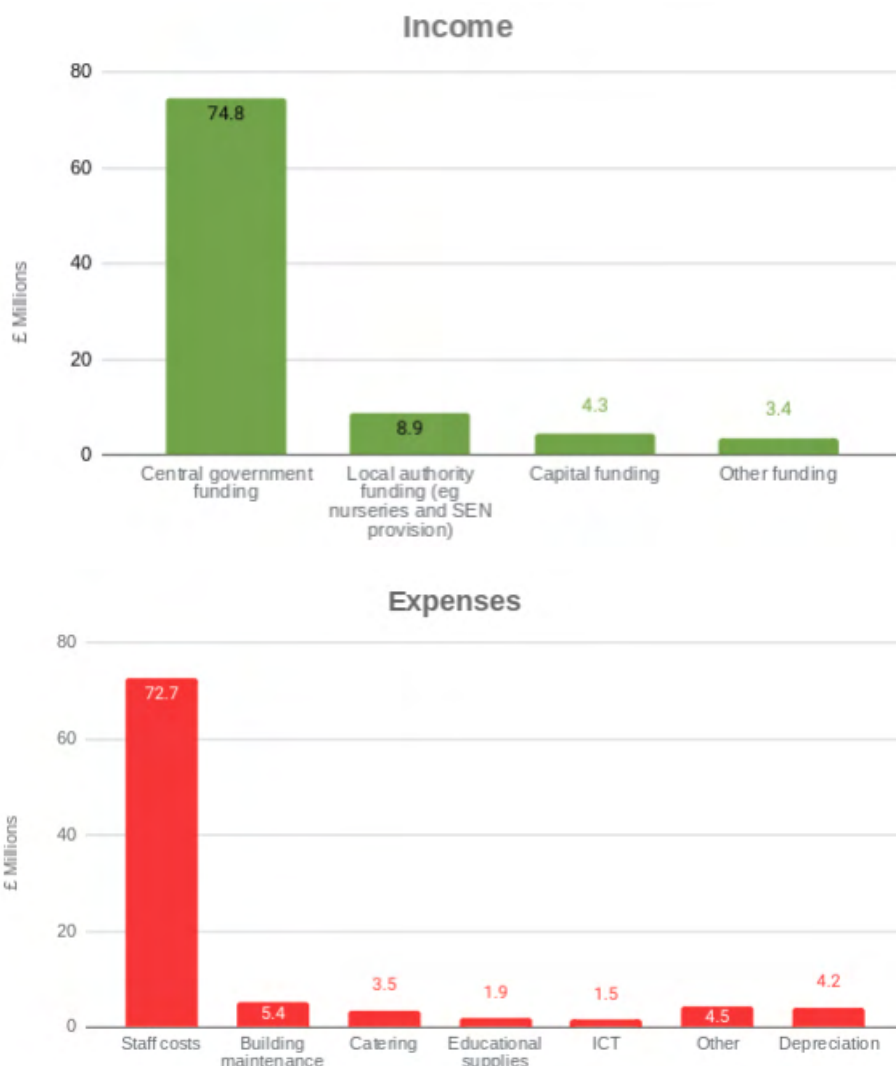


Our finances

The Elliot Foundation is almost entirely funded from public money.

- Last year our total income was £91.4m.
- 80% of income was spent on staff costs.
- The Trust has £5.1m of free reserves, down from £6.6m the previous year

We expect to continue to use our reserves in the coming years due to government education funding not keeping pace with inflation and the increased costs of supporting children and families. If you want to know more about our finances, our Annual Trustees' Report and full accounts can be found on our website. You can also find comparative information on the government's Schools Financial Benchmarking site.



The position shown above is the accounting position including non cash movements, such as pension deficits and depreciation. The movement on free reserves, which is a better indication of financial health, showed an in year deficit of £1.5m.



Contact us

We'd like to build on our success. If you have any feedback for the Elliot Foundation, or would just like to contact us, you can get in touch:



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Elliot
Foundation

Where children believe they can,
because teachers know they can

