

# ANNUAL REPORT

TO PARENTS & CARERS

# 2023



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## Measuring success

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# Letter from our pupils

Dear parents and carers,

What a fantastic year it has been to be part of the Elliot Foundation family!

Being part of such a great trust allows us to express ourselves as individuals and learn new things each and every day. We're always busy! Our schools are safe and are a great place for children to learn a range of amazing lessons - some made to test our knowledge, others to encourage us to work together, many to build key skills, and others to have fun!

Pupils are provided with a happy and healthy environment. We look after and take care of each other. It is great to be surrounded by such caring teachers and classmates. Grown ups share their experiences with you and teach you important values. It's a wonderful place.

The Elliot Foundation helps us to achieve excellence in all aspects of school life, such as academic life and creative life. It inspires us to learn and gives us opportunities to develop as students and get the highest quality education so that we will continue to enjoy learning all through our lives.

There are lots of opportunities for children to get certain jobs, such as school council, digital leaders, librarians, house captains, eco-ambassadors, and arts ambassadors. These roles help to build our confidence. We are currently working on a very exciting project with the Royal Opera House which is set to be our most impressive art event yet!

An Elliot Foundation school teaches us valuable knowledge that we will need in the future. When we go to university, we will be able to choose what we want to be.

If you want to know what it is like to be a child at an Elliot Foundation school, just ask one, as they will tell you it is a great place to learn and grow.

## Written by:

Aria, Jamal, Manal, & Tommy,  
Childs Hill Primary School

Deeyala, Simran, & Rowan,  
Young Art Ambassadors from Billesley Primary School

Aaliyah, Mohammed, Peace, Precious, Eli, & Mia  
Eyrescroft Primary School



# About us

## Where children believe they can, because teachers know they can

*Our founding motto*

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.

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. Curriculums across our schools differ and we resist a one-size-fits-all approach.

Each of our schools is run according to the Elliot Foundation values:



**Put children  
first**



**Be safe**



**Be kind &  
respect all**



**Be open**



**Forgive**



**Make a  
difference**



# Our schools

We enable 32 schools in East Anglia, London, and the West Midlands to deliver quality education. Our primary schools serve almost 13,500 pupils.

Our family of schools has continued to grow and we were proud to welcome Kings Norton Junior and Infant School, Netherbrook Primary, and Rounds Green Primary to our family in 2022.

Below and throughout this report, our schools have shared an image and message that represents their school or shows a snapshot of school life from the past year:

## Billesley Primary School

A place where provision excites learners and encourages independence and critical thinking. A learning environment that enables peers to work collaboratively to achieve a common goal of becoming global educated citizens.



## Cavalry Primary School

At Cavalry, the creative arts are an exciting part of our curriculum, including music, drama, dance and art.



## Childs Hill & Claremont

The Childs Hill and Claremont Primary Federation is building a strong supportive community. Our One Light concert was a joyous occasion which brought people together.

# Year at a glance

In 2022, life started to return to normal after the disruption of the COVID pandemic. Overall, our schools made strong progress.

- 86% of our schools are now judged to be 'Good' or better
- Whilst we are unsatisfied with the overall attainment figures, we are pleased to have closed the gap to the national average at the end of Key Stage 2 to 1 percentage point
- On average, 82% of our parents and carers are satisfied with the education provided to their children in our schools

Above all, we are proud that our schools went out of their way to make up for time lost to the pandemic and not just the lessons they missed, but the experiences too. From Guinness-World-Record-beating sports lessons to partnerships with national arts organisations, we've been able to offer pupils a much broader curriculum in the last year.

**Below:** Pupils are once again enjoying a greater range of activities post-pandemic.



## Croft Academy

Music is a key part of life at Croft. Our Friday morning assemblies always start with a dance.



## Elm Road Primary

We embrace the arts. The children loved designing and creating their masterpiece for a dazzling performance to our parents during TEFAT on Tour.



## Eyrescroft Primary School

We foster and encourage an enjoyment of books in our social reading areas, which offer space to relax, browse, share and read for pleasure.



## George Betts Primary

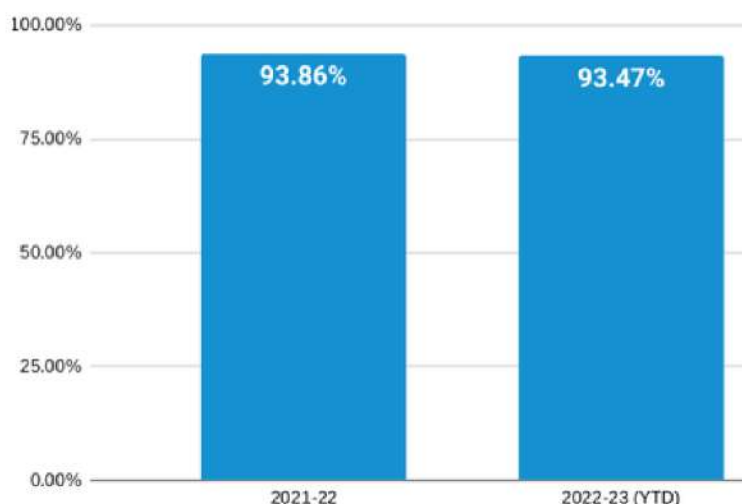
Our newly established girls football team entered their first tournament in November and finished in the top half of the tournament! #GirlPower



# Attendance & attainment

A good primary education is critical to giving a child 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

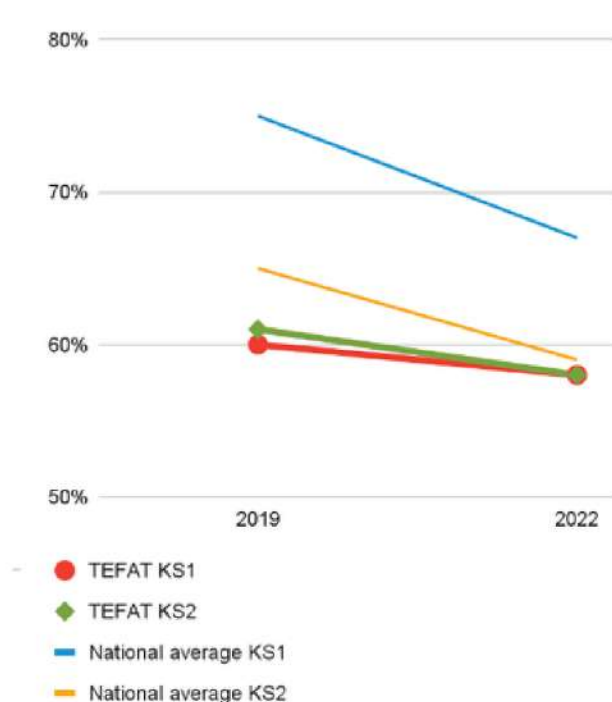


Every day of a child's education matters. That is why the COVID pandemic had such a negative impact on learning. It is also why our schools do everything in their power to encourage all children to come to school every day.

For the academic year 2021-22 our attendance was 93.86%. So far this academic year, it is 93.47%.

Although these percentages may seem high, they equate to over 2.1m days of lost learning each year. You can help us do better.

## Attainment



Primary school children are tested in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage One (year 2) and Key Stage Two (year 6). These tests are known as SATs. They were suspended during the COVID pandemic, so the last year in which primary children were assessed was 2019.

Whilst both KS1 and KS2 have declined during the Covid pandemic, our reduction is much less marked than the national average.

We were also pleased to meet the national average for phonics (75%).



## Greenside Primary School

We change the world. We make it a better place. We learn through film. We are all 'World Ready' & 'Test Ready'.  
We are Greenside!



## Griffin Primary School

You can find us learning through play & exploration in our 'Forest in the City', or sharing books in our beautiful library.  
We are Griffin!



## Highlees Primary School

We're proud to be part of the Wellbeing and Mental Health Award for Schools, taking the needs of our children, staff and parents into account.



## Hillingdon Primary School

Daring to dream! Our Young Voices choir joined over 4500 children to perform a concert at Wembley, making memories to last a lifetime, valuing learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom.'



# 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, Ofsted looks at children's whole school experience. Ofsted reports are available on their website\*.

## Possible Ofsted Ratings:

- Ofsted Grade 1: Outstanding
- Ofsted Grade 2: Good
- Ofsted Grade 3: Requires Improvement
- Ofsted Grade 4: Inadequate

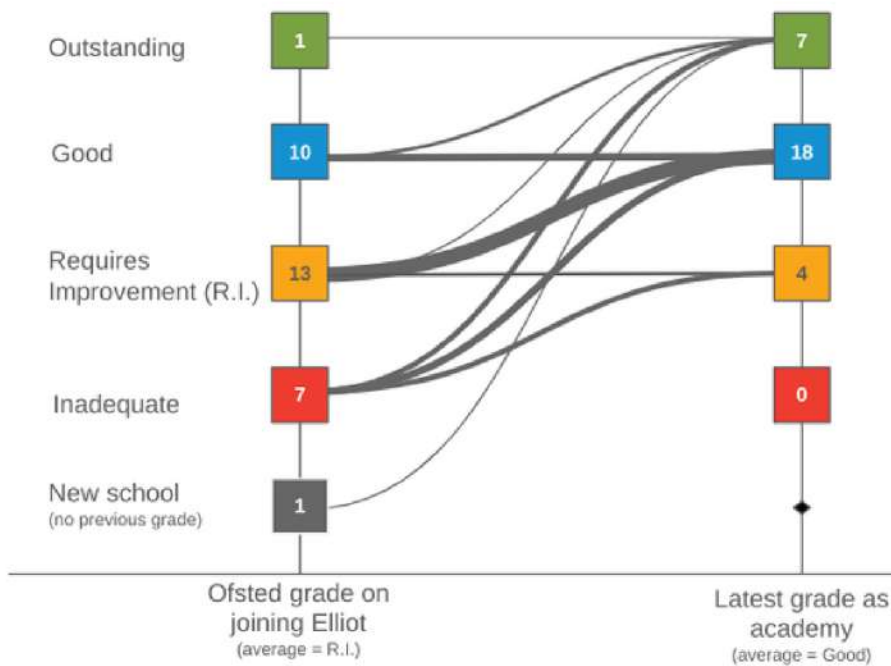
We're proud that Ramnoth Junior school, Nene Infant school, Eyrescroft Primary school, and Pinkwell Primary school all had improvements that were recognised by Ofsted last year. We are equally proud of Shireland Hall Primary who retained their 'Outstanding' designation and Billesley Primary school who were recommissioned for a further 3 years by the Education Endowment Foundation as a 'Research school'. Of the 7 Elliot Foundation schools that were inspected in 2022, 5 increased their Ofsted rating, while 2 maintained the same rating.

**Below:** Highlees students reading. Ofsted frequently analyse school reading and phonics provision.



As of January 2023, 86% of Elliot Foundation schools are judged to be 'Good' or better. This is a transformation from the 33% considered 'Good' or better at the point they joined the Trust.

The graph below shows the change in Ofsted grades for all our academies since they joined the Elliot Foundation:



The average improvement for each school is 1 Ofsted grade.

Three sponsored academies have yet to be inspected since joining us. These are:

- Westwood (currently 'Requires improvement')
- Rounds Green (currently 'Requires improvement')
- Kings Norton - (currently 'Inadequate')

**Below:** We ensure students enjoy a broad, rich curriculum.



# Parent feedback

Test results and Ofsted judgements are important metrics, but it's also important that we improve them without taking anything away from the overall experience of education. To that end, we survey both parents and carers, as well as employees, about the actual day to day school experience. Here's a snapshot of the Spring 2023 parent and carer's survey:



## John Locke Academy

John Locke Academy nursery have fun with their learning. This has been a year focussed on renewing and invigorating our curriculum, making learning irresistible.



## Kings Norton Primary

We've made lots of exciting changes in our early years foundation stage area!



## Kings Rise Academy

Bringing nature to the heart of the curriculum with our KRAKEN Eco-Garden.



## Millfield Primary School

We promote inclusivity and diversity at Millfield. We provide opportunities and experiences for all children to succeed and we are a place where all children's achievements are celebrated.



# Our goals

Often, annual reports are glossy lists of achievements, but we believe that openness about the things we need to improve is just as important. In the next year, we aim to:



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

Last year, 34 children missed more than 50% of their education.



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

Last year, we did not permanently exclude any children.



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

Last year, 58% of our children achieved age-related expectations by end of KS2 (national average = 59%).



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

Last year, staff who reported feeling valued fell 1% to 61%, whilst the amount of staff who recommend Elliot Foundation as an employer climbed slightly to 68%.



## Nene & Ramnoth

Creativity and collaboration is a key part of our daily learning. Our children embrace the opportunity to learn both outside and inside together.



## Parkfield Primary School

We use every opportunity across our Curriculum to give the children memorable experiences and be proud of the city they live in.



## Pinkwell Primary School

We've been reaching for the stars, inspiring and motivating all members of our global school community to believe in their dreams. Below are the 2022 dance troupe who reached the Great Dance Off national finals. It's all part of our globally immersive curriculum that ensures all learners succeed, which cemented our "Good" OFSTED outcome April 2022.



## Ramsey Junior School

We are working hard to develop informal book talk across school to improve enjoyment in reading.



# The arts across the Trust

After several years of successful local collaborations with Regional Arts Council Bridges, we are delighted to be the first organisation to work nationally with the Arts Council and the Royal Opera House through their Partnership Investment Fund. All schools have been creating theatre sets, linked to Alice in Wonderland, that will be shared at a live virtual event. Children are also participating in the Create and Sing programme inspired by Mozart's The Magic Flute. Children from every school will sing together at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.



In addition, all Elliot Foundation schools are working together to achieve Artsmark, a creative quality standard for schools accredited by Arts Council England.

**Left:** All our schools have taught dance to students, using professional dance teachers. The project culminating in a huge dance event in Leicester Square.

## Little Amal

Little Amal is a giant animatronic puppet (pictured left) that walked across 13 countries as part of a project to highlight the refugee crisis.

Last year, many of our TEFAT students wrote and designed postcards with messages of hope and peace that we took to the European Parliament in Brussels on behalf of children and young people across the world.

We were also fortunate to be selected to contribute many of these postcards to a huge art installation that will be created to capture Little Amal's journey.



In each region, schools have further developed the Arts Ambassador networks, which have led to exciting regional celebrations and sharing events.



# The arts in East Anglia



In East Anglia, local artists and professionals have been working to enhance our Creative Curriculum. During the summer, a professional stage crew and a touring 'pop-up' stage visited each of our East-Anglian schools. Students entered a logo design competition to help promote the arts project.



This touring project provided pupils with the opportunity to achieve an Explore Arts Award and showcase their new creative skills to an audience of excited family and friends.

The winning logo design by a Highlees student and the corresponding digital version of the design can be seen on the left.

In February, some East-Anglian schools hosted New International Encounter (NIE) Theatre, an international touring group who make award-winning theatre projects through a mix of physical theatre, multiple languages, live music, storytelling and a European ensemble. Year 5 pupils received their first taste of the Shakespeare classic Hamlet, performed from a suitcase in 45 minutes! This will lead to a creative writing project.

**Top left:** Ukulele Workshop with T. Harlock - Musician/ Composer - Nene and Ramnoth School

**Bottom left:** 4D Dance with Sara Ford - Dancer/Choreographer- Millfield Primary School

**Below right:** New International Encounter Theatre



# The arts in London

London enjoyed a focus on dance across the year. We launched the programme in October 2021 with a shared 'Welcome Dance' performed on the day that Little Amal (see page 15) reached London on her journey across Europe. Each academy then choreographed pieces celebrating a journey; literal, metaphorical and discovery. They worked with professional dancers, bringing new knowledge, skills and joy to their own academies.

In July 2022, we shared a wonderful afternoon of dance, celebrating cultures and genres from across time and inspired by both Little Amal's journey and our own stories of welcoming everyone to our communities. The energy, excitement, talent and fun of the occasion was remarkable and our students danced to a sell out performance at the London Comedy Theatre!

London schools also came together last year at Brunel University to sing in a joyful celebration.

**Below:** Greenside students engage in dance.



# The arts in the West Midlands

Teachers in the West Midlands chose to work on sculpture this year. They worked alongside Anne Marie Cadman exploring the themes of identity, culture and heritage ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the summer. Each school crafted unique sculptures which were exhibited at a 3-day event at the Midlands Art Centre in July.

We have also been working on how we develop creativity in our classrooms.

In the West Midlands, we have been fortunate enough to gain funding from the Arts Council to work with creative practitioners Stan's Cafe and Open Theatre to explore areas of our teaching practice that we would like to change.

Open Theatre is working with us on non-verbal communication, while Stan's Cafe is helping us to make our lessons more practical and engaging.



**Pictured left and right:**  
Woods Bank's and Netherbrook's  
larger-than-life tree sculptures

**Below and background:**  
A 'Commonwealth print' from  
Billesley Primary School



# Digital learning

## Virtual tuition and wellbeing coaching

Our digital learning team has used their experience of remote provision during the pandemic to explore ways that remote learning can be used in other areas of education.

Virtual tuition has been trialled and rolled out in a number of our schools to support children who need additional opportunities in school. These have taken place both inside and outside of school hours and have proved effective in providing tailored tuition to individuals and small groups.

As well as tuition sessions focussed on academic goals, we have also offered virtual wellbeing sessions. These have been targeted to individuals' social, emotional and mental health needs and provided them with activities that explore emotion through stories, art and role-play online.

## Digital staff training

Throughout the year, we have developed digital systems to support teachers' professional development and collaboration. These programmes include digital training materials and spaces for staff to discuss challenges and solutions.



# Digital Leaders

The Digital Leaders programme in the London region has allowed some of our pupils to become leaders in the effective use of technology. After an exciting application process, the successful candidates attended a training day at Brunel University where they were trained to fulfil a leadership role within their academy. Responsibilities include:

- sharing best practice for staying safe online
- designing and implementing effective systems for the use of digital hardware
- training teachers and children
- delivering computing lessons.

“

It was so good to see what life is like for university students, and also see where they have their lectures!

”

“

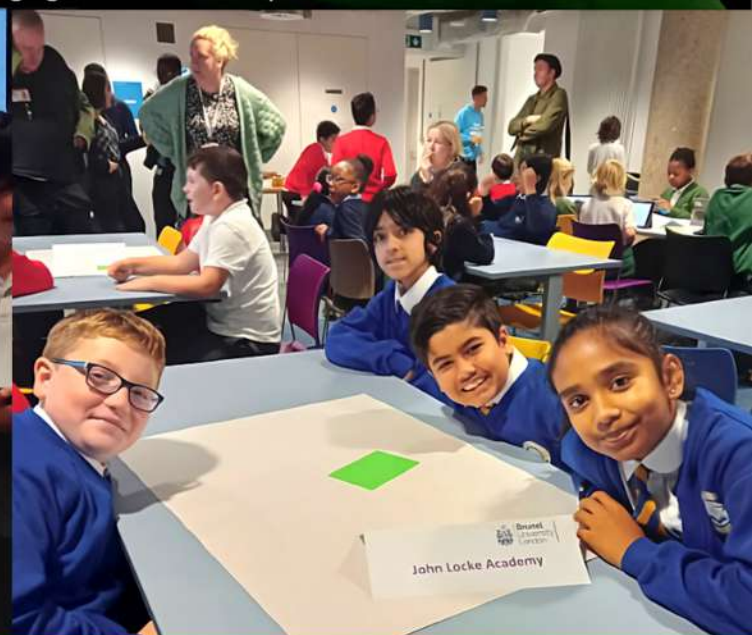
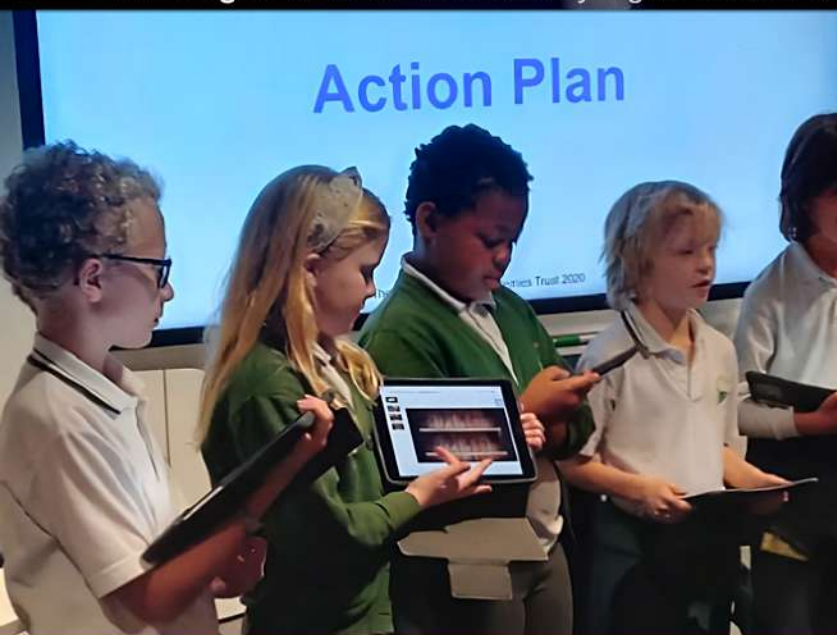
I loved the workshop about robots and the chocolate bridge building!

”

**Background Picture:** Digital leaders are given an immersive experience at Brunel University.

**Below left:** Digital leaders deliver an action plan to an audience.

**Below right:** John Locke Academy digital leaders engage in a workshop.



## Ramsey Spinning Infant

We make links within our local community to help bring our learning to life. Year 1 children below enjoy a visit from Farmer Luke and his tractor, finding out about how things grow.



## Rounds Green Primary

With our school virtues at the heart of everything we do, our pupils will always leave you with a smile on your face!



## Shireland Hall Primary

We value high standards of education, as well as developing children's sense of self and their responsibilities to the wider community.



## Shirestone Academy

Outdoor learning is at the heart of what we do as it not only allows children to explore and be creative, but it allows them to appreciate the natural world around us. Outdoor spaces are as important to us as our indoor ones.



## The Cippenham School

We celebrated 'Odd Socks Day' 2022 to celebrate our differences and similarities. We were so proud that kindness, respect and honesty, three of our key values, shone through all of our learning during Anti Bullying Week.



## The Hyde School

At The Hyde we always aim high! Here's Ramona in Year 6 taking this very seriously!



## Tiverton Academy

One School Many Talents - the Dance Squad represented inclusion and diversity through performance theatre at The Birmingham School Games Dance Finals.

They showcased their dance and gymnastic skills and demonstrated creativity, collaboration, perseverance and resilience.



## Westwood Primary School

The children at Westwood enjoy using their immersive environments when reading for pleasure.



# Sports



**Above:** In partnership with sports and nutrition charity 'Rackets Cubed', Billesley children attend 45-minute tennis lessons with a coach, 45-minute maths lessons, and receive healthy food.

In summer, the 2nd Annual TEFAT Games took place with children from across the country competing. Competitions were held regionally with events such as standing jump, nerf-throwing (javelin) and the 40m sprint. This culminated in national finals.

**Below:** In May, our amazing family of West Midlands schools met at Edgbaston Cricket Ground and broke the world record for the largest ever cricket lesson.





# Sustainability

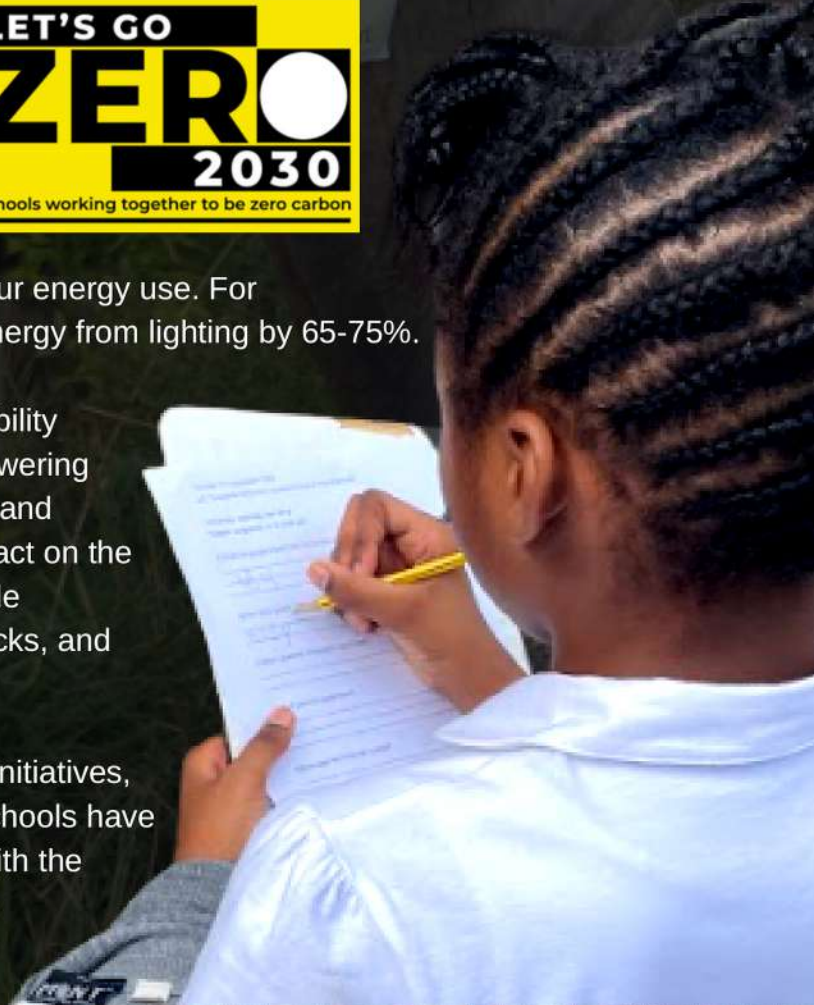
Sustainability has become a strong focus across the Trust over the last year as TEFAT works towards achieving net zero by 2030 as part of the 'LetsGoZero' campaign.



We are continuously thinking of ways to reduce our energy use. For example, our LED light programme is reducing energy from lighting by 65-75%.

Schools are working to deliver their own sustainability pledges led by our school 'Green Leaders', empowering and championing students to think more critically and innovatively about how they can reduce their impact on the environment. Some of our school initiatives include newly-planted green spaces, eco-friendly glue sticks, and schools growing their own produce.

Over the next year, we'll drive forward our green initiatives, further develop our Green Leaders and ensure schools have a green curriculum in place to equip our pupils with the knowledge, awareness and tools to be conscious and caring citizens.

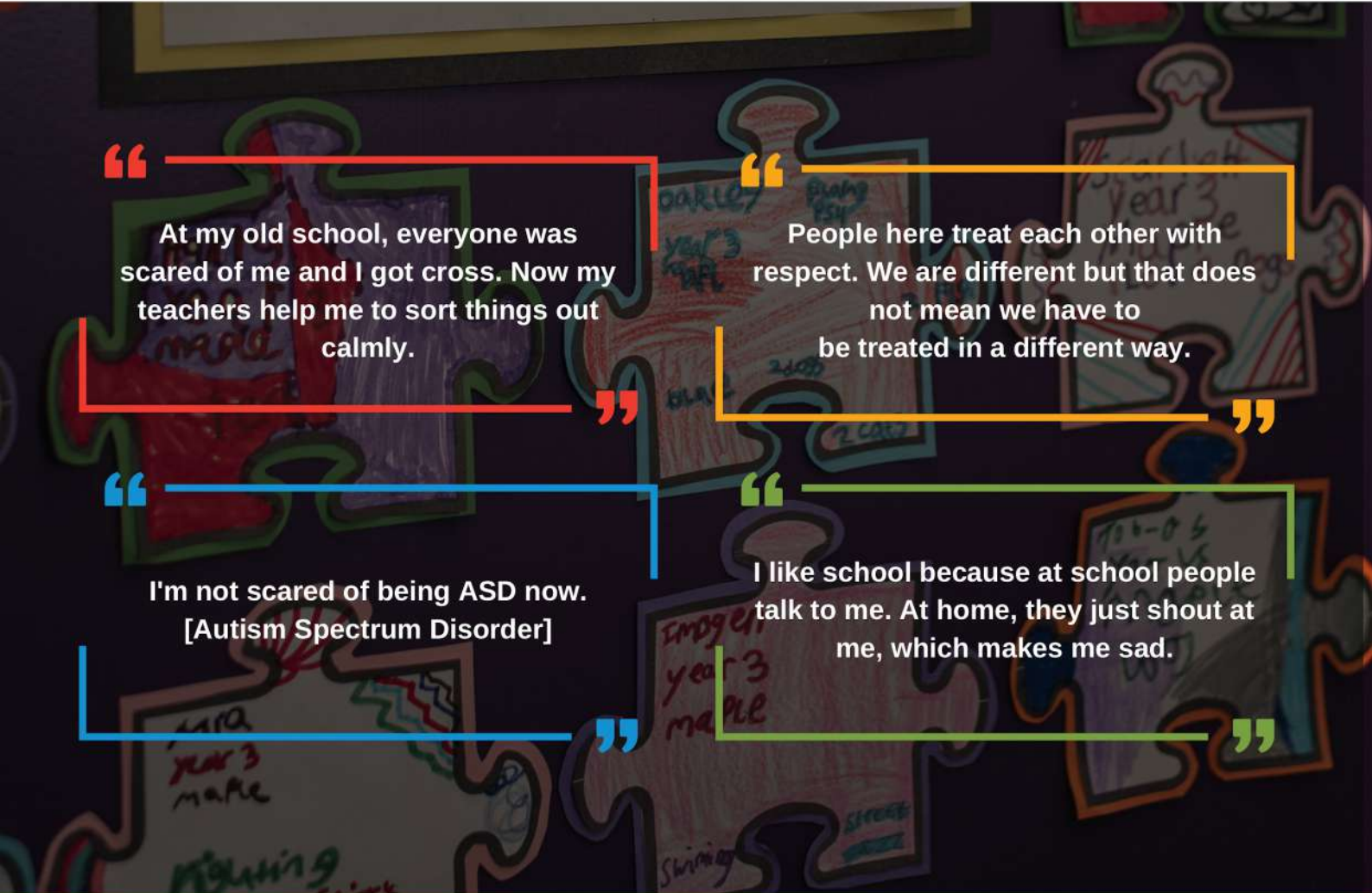


# Inclusion

Children who attend our schools come from varied backgrounds. One third of our children are supported through pupil premium grants, approximately 43% have English as an additional language (EAL), and 16% have a special educational need or disability (SEND). This makes our learning environment a melting pot of culture, experience, and diversity.

Last summer, we brought all of our principals together to discuss, amongst other things, our shared aspirations for SEND. Inclusion is at the heart of all of our academies' values, culture and practice. The curriculum for SEND pupils is ambitious and ensures that pupils are well-prepared for adult life, socially, academically and in terms of health and well-being. Our parents, carers, and external agencies work well in collaboration and ensure that outcomes for pupils are excellent. We continue to work hard collectively across the Trust to deliver these aspirations!

**Below:** Some comments from our pupils about their schools:



“ At my old school, everyone was scared of me and I got cross. Now my teachers help me to sort things out calmly. ”

“ People here treat each other with respect. We are different but that does not mean we have to be treated in a different way. ”

“ I'm not scared of being ASD now. [Autism Spectrum Disorder] ”

“ I like school because at school people talk to me. At home, they just shout at me, which makes me sad. ”

## Open Theatre

The motto for Open Theatre is 'Doing Difference Differently' and this is exactly what we wanted to learn. Open Theatre specialise in non-verbal theatre and their practitioners, often young people with autistic spectrum condition, are working in schools in the West Midlands through the Creativity Collaboratives programme, funded by Arts Council England. Schools work with creative practitioners once per week on immersive experiences with groups of children so that they can learn how to recognise communication in many forms, not just through words. Sessions are joyful, with staff often emotional about how much children can achieve when offered the right opportunity to express themselves. Staff are learning new ways to communicate so that they can carry on this fun but important work into the future.



**Above:** An Open Theatre session where children balanced hats, while communicating non-verbally.

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We're working with Dr Rob Sharples at Bristol University on developing our first group of expert practitioners in teaching children with EAL. Next year, they will be working across schools to support staff in how to adapt their practice, whether to support a child who is newly arrived or to adapt the curriculum for children from a range of language backgrounds.

## Young Carers clubs

Several of our schools now host Young Carers clubs. These groups contain diverse groups of children, from those living with autistic siblings to those supporting parents with significant needs. As well as engaging in fun activities, our Young Carers also have the time and space to talk about any concerns they have. Many of our Young Carers are now very experienced and offer invaluable support, advice and guidance to new members.

## Woods Bank Academy

We are ready, respectful, and safe and our calm corners across the school help our pupils to achieve this to their fullest potential.



# Supporting communities

More and more of our schools are offering additional services to their local communities, whether that's hosting English lessons for parents, offering free books and children's winter clothing, or cooking hundreds of meals for the homeless.

The biggest community scheme among TEFAT schools is the 'Community Box', whereby 23 of our schools provide surplus food to help our most vulnerable families, helping our families navigate the cost of living crisis. The programme ensures that vulnerable families have access to healthy food, cleaning products, and personal hygiene items, whilst reducing food waste.

We're proud to have delivered almost 30,000 boxes in 2022 and look forward to growing our support throughout 2023. We'd like to thank everyone who has made this possible, from our suppliers, to the volunteers that pack the boxes, to our staff. If you would like to volunteer or get involved with Community Box, please email [william.jones@elliotfoundation.co.uk](mailto:william.jones@elliotfoundation.co.uk).

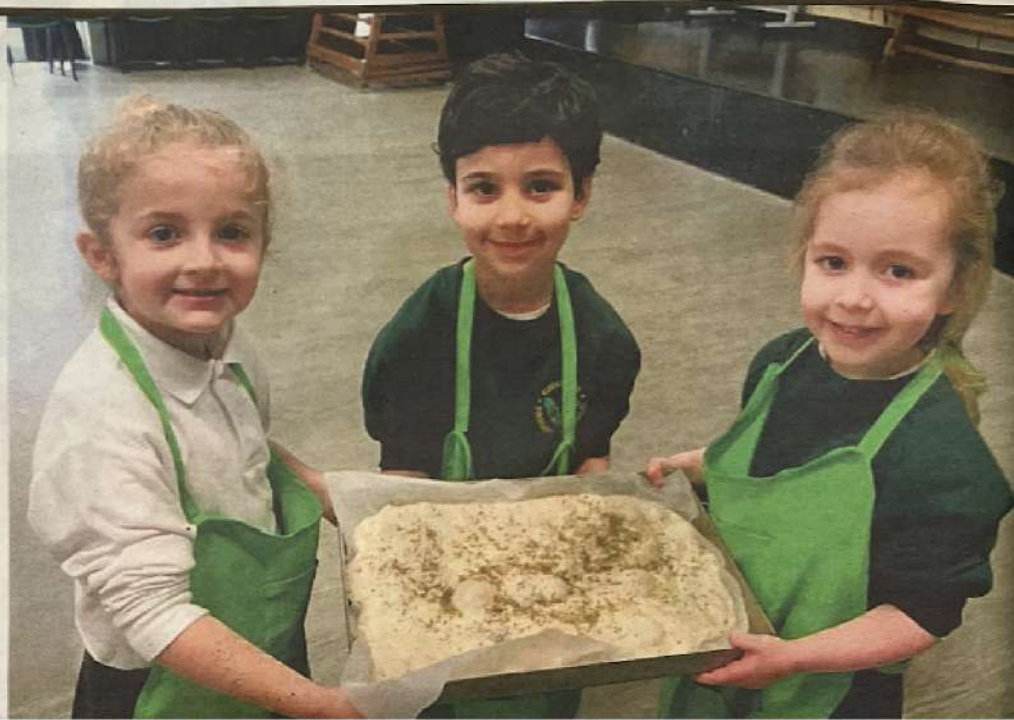
**Below:** Community food boxes at Claremont Primary School with the logos of our key partners.



# News & Views

## PUPILS HAVE THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

A pioneering London primary school uses food to inspire learning – and has even launched its own bakery.



**Above:** A Waitrose 'Weekend' newspaper clipping featuring Greenside Primary students, who bake bread that gets sold to the community. The proceeds help pay for school meals.

**Below:** Claremont, Childs Hill & Parkfield schools have supported refugee families for a number of years and were delighted to host a Christmas-themed event for some of the children.



# Our finances

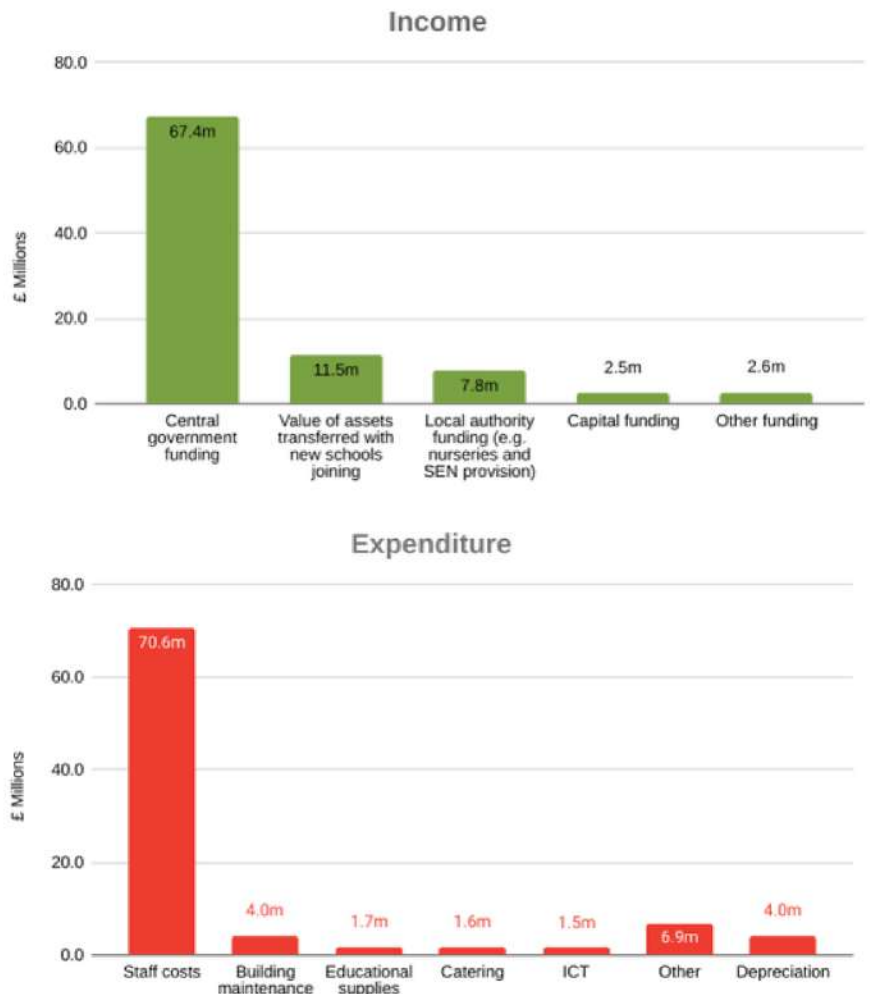
The Elliot Foundation is almost entirely funded from public money.

You can see the breakdown of our income and expenditure for 2022 in the graphs to the right. Some key stats:

- Last year our total income was £91.8m, including £11.5m of assets transferred in from four schools joining the Trust.
- 88% of cash income was spent on staff costs
- The Trust has £6.6m of free reserves, down from £7.1m 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 costs of supporting children and families after the pandemic.

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 compare us to other trusts on the government's 'Schools Financial Benchmarking' site.



# 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

